



ABOVE: Youth Theatre's latest show (See page 8).

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Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/11 - 42,235 (GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2012

'Your behaviour was absolutely terrifying' - judge

JAIL FOR WOMEN AFTER SWORD AFFRAY

CROWN COURT REPORT
by AJ SICLUNA

TWO women who became involved in an affray in Bridgend, terrified people by brandishing a knife and an ornamental sword, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

Giuliana McLauchlan (28) of Bonymaen, Swansea, was jailed for two years and Shelley Simmonds (30), of no fixed address, was jailed for three years.

Simmonds was said to be in breach of a community order for another incident of affray and possessing a weapon.

Judge Neil Bidder told the pair: "Your behaviour was absolutely terrifying. You are both drug addicts, with very long criminal records.

"You both have to be deterred from using weapons. You present a significant danger to other people and this episode could have resulted in very serious injury."

Both defendants admitted charges of affray and possessing an offensive weapon.

Prosecutor James Wilson said that on December 2 last year, Mr Michael Wallace was with friends in a flat in Tremgarth, Wildmill, Bridgend.

The defendants were present and became aggressive towards Mr Wallace. Simmonds picked up a knife and was described as 'going crazy', shouting, "I'm going to cut you".

Said Mr Wilson: "She seemed possessed. McLauchlan took hold of an ornamental sword and said she was going to kill Mr Wallace.

"He pleaded 'Don't hurt me, I've got kids.'"

Mr Wilson added: "He thought he was going to die and fled from the flat, followed by the defendants."

He called the police and met Teresa Pont and sought refuge. At one point, McLauchlan wielded the sword, narrowly missing a person.

She then slammed it on the bonnet of a car.

Mr Wilson said that Simmonds appeared to be "off her head", and Miss Pont was assaulted by McLauchlan, who punched her in the face and held the sword towards her throat.

"Needless to say, Ms Pont was terrified," said Mr Wilson. When the police arrived, they found Mr Wallace shaking and crying.

The defendants denied committing any offences.

Simmonds was said to have convictions for 37 offences, including arson, causing damage, causing actual bodily harm and wounding with intent.

McLauchlan had convictions for 70 offences including assault, obstructing the police, robbery and perverting the course of justice.

Their counsel, Marion Lewis, said: "This was clearly a very disturbing incident. The pair are emotionally attached to each other. Each suffered as a child and began offending at an early age.

"Simmonds began using heroin and cocaine at 14, and what occurred was fuelled by alcohol and drugs.

"They are truly sorry and bitterly regret what happened."

MAESTEG PUPILS STRIVE FOR NATIONAL SUCCESS



ABOVE: Ysgol Cynwyd Sant pupils performing on stage.

Housing benefit changes putting young at risk of losing their homes

New debt advice service launched in the borough

A NEW service has been launched in Bridgend county borough to help residents with housing problems due to financial difficulties.

Funded by the Welsh Government, the Bridgend Debt Advice Link is being delivered by social exclusion charity, Caer Las, and the housing options team of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Civic Offices in Angel Street, Bridgend, the service provides debt advisers who work with people to help them get their finances back on track.

The advisers help residents prioritise their debts and advise on how to budget accurately to avoid

falling back into financial difficulties.

Where appropriate, advisers also liaise with creditors to negotiate affordable payment plans and provide advice on eligible benefits to ensure that people are receiving their full entitlement.

Caroline West-Jones, a regional manager at Caer Las, says: "The Bridgend Debt Advice Link is vitally important, providing support to people who are having money problems and are at risk of losing their homes.

EVICCTIONS

"The recent changes to the housing benefits mean that more young people than ever before will be vulnerable to eviction and will need financial advice and support."

Established more than 30 years ago, Caer Las is a Swansea-based charity dedicat-

ed to improving the lives of the socially excluded in south Wales by providing practical advice and support on issues including housing, finances, mental health and substance misuse to the people who need it most.

For further information, visit: www.caerlas.org.

FIFTY pupils from Ysgol Cynwyd Sant in Maesteg will be representing Bridgend county borough at the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Caernarfon this summer.

Hoping to build upon the success they achieved in the local and regional competitions, the youngsters will represent the borough and the Morgannwg Ganol region in eight events; ranging from singing and dancing to drama and recitals.

The school is also hoping for success on a national level in the art and craft competition, where pupils have nine entries in areas such as knitting and collage

work. Mrs Tegwen Ellis, headteacher of Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, said: "The Urdd is an integral part of our school and the Eisteddfod is especially important as it encapsulates our traditions and culture.

"The experience of competing at a national level is amazing for the pupils involved.

"I am especially grateful to all the staff who have given hours of their own time, including at weekends, to train and practice with the pupils.

"The parents also play a huge part in this event; bringing children to practices, helping with costumes and props, and supporting the children at the Eisteddfod itself."

Popular local charity is 21!

THE Sandville Self-Help Centre, one of the borough's most popular charities, is celebrating 21 years at its base in Ton Kenfig.

This week's GEM contains the first part of a retrospective look at the charity's progress since it began with a modest get-together in the Sandville Hotel, Porthcawl.

There were celebrations at reaching the 21-year landmark, and for photographs of the day, turn to page 4.

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The festival is supported by Welsh Government, Arts Council Wales, Zephyrus Festival, Arts of Glamorgan, Porthcawl Festival Group, Arts and Business Council, Porthcawl Books and Writers Festival and Porthcawl.

Sandville First Aid training for wannabe medical students

RECENTLY at the Sandville Self Help Centre in Ton Kenfig, Gary Banks, the centre manager, a qualified paramedic, gave a number of First Aid training sessions to potential medical students that meet there every week.

The training involved the students attending a series of lectures and their participation in the practical application of the First Aid training with a specially designed dummy. At the end of the training, participating students were each given a signed First Aid certificate. KEM



ABOVE: Students learn First Aid from Sandville Self Help Centre manager, Gary Banks, and trained paramedic, Gary Banks.

'Your chance to play your part'

A RECENT BBC poll revealed that 64 per cent were in favour of the Welsh Government having powers to vary taxes in Wales.

A similar poll, which our commission ran with ICM research, showed 66 per cent were in favour of the Welsh Government being able to borrow money to spend on capital projects such as building roads and hospitals.

These are the areas our commission is looking at this year and we want to hear the views of as many people across Wales as we can.

Do you agree with these opinion polls or do you have differing views?

We are visiting every local authority area in Wales to hear the thoughts of the people on these important issues. As part of

this, on April 17 we will be in Bridgend and Cowbridge and want to hear your views.

We will be holding a coffee morning drop in session at Cowbridge Town Hall at 10am, and then in the afternoon we will be at Heronston Hotel in Bridgend between 2.30pm and 3.30pm where you can come and give formal evidence to us.

What we recommend this autumn will have an impact on every community in Wales.

Take the opportunity to come along to find out more about our work and to have your say.

This is your chance to play your part in ensuring Wales has the right powers for the future.

PAUL SILK
Chair, Commission on Devolution in Wales.

BRIDGEND MUM IN A WALK FOR PEACE

JANE Harries, a local mother of three, and a member of Bridgend Quakers, is walking the whole of the Pembrokeshire coastal path to raise money and awareness for a three-month stay in Palestine from June to September this year.

She will be part of an international team, supporting both Israelis and Palestinians working for peace.

She will be volunteering with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), an initiative of the World Council of Churches.

The programme began in 2002 as a

response to a call for help from the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.

What is she likely to be doing? Jane said: "The presence of EAs at gates in the 'separation barrier' or military checkpoints, means that Palestinian civilians are less likely to suffer abuse or harassment."

"They accompany children to school and help people to access their work, education and medical facilities."

"In short, EAs enable vulnerable people to go about their daily lives in a way which we, in Bridgend, take for granted."

To sponsor Jane's walk, go to: www.just-giving.com/Jane-Harries.

Police hunt cycle thieves

BRIDGEND police are investigating the theft of four high specification bicycles from a garage on Pant y Celyn in Pencoed between 5am on Monday April 2 and 4am on Wednesday April 4.

They were a blue Mongoose Rockdile mountain bike and three specialised branded cycles – a red Transition Pro, white Dolce, and black and white Tarmac Comp models.

If anyone has any information, contact Inspector Paul Tinkler at Bridgend Police Station on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Pencoed club cabin is given spruce up!

Family members of the Pencoed under-11s team help spruce up the club cabin.



ON another bright and sunny day in Pencoed, the parents, brothers and sisters and grandad of the successful Pencoed under-11s turned up to repaint their club cabin in preparation for their forthcoming minis rugby tournament. Paint and supplies were generously donated by John Davey's Builders Merchants.

"IT MUST BE THE NEW AFTERSHAVE"



Read Philip Irwin's review of Bridgend Youth Theatre's latest show on page 8.

Terry Waite tells of Emmaus charity's work

TERRY WAITE, president of Emmaus UK, which gives a home, work and hope to previously homeless people, came to Brynagarw House hotel, near Bridgend on March 29 to speak about the charity.

He spoke to local MPs, the deputy mayor of the borough of Bridgend, councillors, representatives of the church and armed forces, local business leaders and third sector managers.

As well as celebrating 20 years of being released from captivity, he talked about his great support for Emmaus south Wales and plans to open the first Emmaus Community in Wales in

the Bridgend area. He spoke again in the evening to the public, joined by the First Minister of Wales, as well as three companions from Emmaus Gloucestershire, who spoke briefly of their experiences.

Terry Waite is an inspiring speaker, skillfully mixing humour, courage, wisdom and hope.

All who heard him, and the companions, undoubtedly understood how Emmaus can make a very real difference to the many homeless people we have in Bridgend borough and beyond.

Offers of help of all kinds were generously made by many of the attendees. To find out more go to: www.emmaus.org.uk/south-wales. GN

Who wants to build what and where?

Branch Walkers – HMP and YO1 Parc, Heol Hopcyn John, Coity – Tree Works.

Mr I Richardson – 3 St Davids Close, Brackla – Cut back overhanging stems and remove three stems and reduce canopy by 30 per cent of 2 x sycamore and fell 1 x sycamore.

Mrs Jill Thomas – 18 Llys Briallen, Brackla – Reduce height of hawthorn hedge to 4m and cut back overhanging limbs.

Mr Steven Cox – Leithen Vale, 16 Briary Way, Brackla – Reduce canopy of ash tree by 25-30 per cent.

Mr and Mrs M James – Shortlands, Newton Nottage

Road, Porthcawl – Convert existing detached coach house into a holiday let cottage with two storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs Simpson – 12 Felindre Avenue, Pencoed – Hip to gable roof extension with rear dormer.

Mr D Fowler – Land south of the Nicholls Arms, Coytraen – Variation of Condition 1 of P/09/503/RLX to extend time to submit details for dwelling and parking.

Mr Jonathan Powell – 17 Dale View, Cefn Cribwr – Single storey extension and first floor extension over existing garage.

Andrew and James

Partnership Ltd – Red Dragon, Litchard Hill, Bridgend – Smoking shelter to the front right hand side of the property.

Mr Paul Rees – 8 Ffridd Las, Broadlands – Erect single storey detached garage.

Mr John Elvins – Land adjacent 9 Meadow Street, North Cornelly – Outline application for detached dormer bungalow.

Mr N G Hegarty – Cae Court, Merthyr Mawr Road – New chimney pots.

Mr Chris Gill – 15 Meadow Walk, Brackla – Retention of wall to front garden.

Mr David Evans – 12 Brynteg Avenue, Bridgend –

Single storey rear extension and loft conversion with side and rear pitched roof dormer windows.

Miss P Hume – 78 Grove Road, Bridgend – Demolish existing WC and erect new WC and dining area extension.

Mr John Lever – Ty Newydd Farm, Moira Terrace, Ogmere Vale – Retention and completion of partially erected agricultural building previously approved on P/05/1472/FUL.

Mr M Chalmers – Land between Rose Cottage and Old Tavern, Llangineir – Erection of three detached dwellings and access drive;

re-sub of P/11/621/OUT.

Mr Mathew Llewellyn – 42 Coychurch Road, Bridgend

– Loft conversion/roof extension and dining/kitchen extension.

Western Power Distribution – Overhead line between Llangwydd and Nottage, Bridgend – Erect/extend an overhead line with wood poles and stays between Llangwydd and Nottage.

Marine Consents Officer – Porthcawl Harbour, Porthcawl – Obs for Porthcawl Harbour regeneration.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 19)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
12 Thur	11.14	8.7	23.41	8.6
13 Fri			12.13	8.2
14 Sat	00.48	8.1	13.29	7.7
15 Sun	02.11	7.8	14.49	7.7
16 Mon	03.26	7.9	16.11	8.1
17 Tues	04.34	8.3	17.07	8.4
18 Wed	05.25	8.7	17.51	8.8
19 Thur	06.09	9.1	18.28	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Man is jailed after intervening in couple's argument

DURING an argument with his partner outside a supermarket, a man was suddenly attacked by a passer-by, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Adam Evans (31) of Glan Fforwg, Bridgend, was jailed for two months after pleading guilty to assaulting Christopher White.

Prosecutor Gareth James said that Mr White was having an argument with his partner outside Tesco's, Brewery Lane, Bridgend.

"The defendant was passing by and said to Mr White, 'What are you looking at? What's your problem?' He said he didn't have a problem, but Evans then stuck him twice to his left ear and chin."

The court heard that Evans had previous convictions for 15 offences, including causing actual bodily harm, possessing drugs and assault.

Claire Wilkes, representing Evans, said: "Unfortunately, the case took place a long time ago. He has stopped drinking and is

making efforts to change his life.

"In the past, he has had mental health difficulties. Currently, his life is stable, but because of his record, he realises he faces custody."

"He said if he went to prison, he would lose his present accommodation."

"Clearly," she added, "the assault was totally unjustified."

Said Judge David Wyn Morgan: "You are not allowed to interfere in people's disputes and hit them."

Delegates join together to fight cyber bullying



Left to right: Karen Powell (MHM Wales information officer), Janette Kearn (Chief Executive, MHM Wales), Neville Evans (conference Chair), Keith Towler (Children's Commissioner for Wales) and Stuart Burge-Jones (Siaradwn Ni programme manager).

KEITH TOWLER, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, recently attended a conference entitled 'Life Sucks' which looked at the growing problem of cyber bullying.

Over 100 delegates from Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot county boroughs attended the conference in Margam's Orangery, and voted unanimously that there should be a national publicity campaign led by the Welsh Assembly Government to raise awareness and inform people of their rights.

The conference was organised by Mental Health Matters Wales, a partner organisation of the Siaradwn Ni - Let's Talk project, a programme funded

by the Big Lottery, co-ordinated by BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) and Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (NPTCVS), which raises the awareness of mental health and drives up community-based resilience to life changing circumstances.

Siaradwn Ni Programme Manager, Stuart Burge-Jones, said: "The Siaradwn Ni project aims to support people who may have been affected by any behaviours that lead to depression, anxiety or low self-esteem."

Cyber bullying makes use of social networking sites, email or text to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour by an individual or a group intended to harm others. Cyber bullies may disclose victim's

personal data on websites or forums, may pose as the identity of the victim in an effort to defame or ridicule them, may send threatening and harassing emails and instant messages, or post untrue rumours or gossip.

Chaired by Neville Evans, author of 'The UK Bullying and Hate Crime Handbook', speakers ranged from Children's Commissioner Keith Towler, South Wales Police, and from specialists in cyber bullying tactics and dealing with young people.

Topics included the methods and the devastating effects of cyber bullying, legalities of such actions, why bullies bully and how to encourage resilience amongst young people.

For further details, call 01656 767045 or email: info@mhmwales.org.

Apprentice is spared jail after throwing 'single punch'

A MAN bled profusely after being punched in the face outside a Bridgend club.

Justin Scannell had two teeth knocked out and a third damaged, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Rhys Evenden (20), an apprentice engineer with BT of Bradfield Avenue, Bridgend, admitted a charge of causing actual bodily harm before Vale magistrates and was committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was sent to a young offender institution for six months, suspended for 18 months and ordered to carry out 250 hours of unpaid work and to observe a 7pm to 6am curfew for three months and to be electronically tagged.

He was also ordered to pay Mr Scannell £2,000 compensation.

Prosecutor Jonathan Bushell said Mr Scannell was attacked outside the Lava Club, Bridgend.

Soon afterwards, Evenden was detained by door staff and arrested.

He said he had been extremely drunk and had little recollection of what had happened.

The incident was captured on CCTV, said Mr Bushell.

Evenden's counsel, Stephen Thomas, said: "He realises he has committed a serious offence to which he made a full and frank admission to the police."

"He fully accepts he struck the victim once and that it was unwarranted. There was no following up, no kicking, no premeditation. It was isolated and there is real and genuine remorse."

"In no way was the victim to blame."

He said that normally, Evenden was balanced and was well regarded in the community.

"He faces a very bright future and the court can draw back from immediate custody. It was one punch, on the spur of the moment. Custody would mean he could lose his job."

Judge Philip Hughes said: "What makes the offence worse was that you were affected by drink. It was at night and in the street. You delivered a single, hard blow. 'You are a young man with considerable potential.'"

He warned him to behave himself and said that if he committed another offence, a suspended sentence could be activated.

It was stated that he had no previous convictions.

Maesteg police target fake IDs

POLICE in Maesteg will be cracking down on youngsters using fake or borrowed ID in an attempt to gain entry to pubs and clubs in the town.

Officers will be working with landlords and licensees to specifically target under-age drinkers and young people trying to get into licensed premises using ID borrowed from friends and relatives.

Anyone found to be presenting fake or borrowed identification by door staff will have the ID confiscated and their parents or guardians may be contacted to collect them.

Maesteg Neighbourhood PCSO Maria Pascoe said:

"While the town centre is safe at night, people who are underage and are intoxicated are at risk of getting involved in more serious incidents which could affect the rest of their lives."

"Working in partnership with our colleagues in the licensing trade, we will intervene to help these youths to identify the issues that trying to obtain alcohol below the legal can cause."

The initiative will continue on various nights in the town centre over the coming weeks.

Audience revel in choir concert

THE Tabernacl Music Society recently joined with Noteworthy, the Maesteg mixed choir, to present a delightful concert.

A spokesperson reports: Tabernacl choir, directed as usual by Kevin Adams and accompanied by Steven Burgess on piano and organ, sang a variety of lively and tranquil songs, including pieces by John Rutter and Karl Jenkins, as well as works by Mendelssohn and Dvorak.

Bob Chilcott's 'A Little Jazz Mass', which the choir performed at their last concert, was well worth a second airing, particularly with the added accompaniment of a jazz bass and timpani.

Many members of Noteworthy are performers in their own right and they combined to produce an impressively unified and smooth sound.

The choir's founder and director, Ryan Wood, accompanied the soloist, Charlotte Ellett, the deputy director, Susan M Heffey, took over the baton.

The accompanist was Rhian Jenkins and the choir was introduced by Tony Mullins.

Noteworthy's programme contained traditional hymns such as 'Builth', a new arrangement by Jeffrey Howard, and 'Eric Jones' 'Y Tangnefeddwy' as well as lively and modern songs such as 'Don't sit under the Apple Tree' and 'Blow Gabriel Blow' from the musical 'Anything Goes'.

Charlotte Ellett, born in Llantwit Major, showed how much at home she is in opera. Her performance included soprano arias from 'Carmen' and 'La Bohème', as well as the Bach Gounod 'Ave Maria' and 'We'll Gather Lilacs' by Ivor Novello. The warmth of the applause reflected her heartfelt singing.

The concert ended with a spirited performance of Rutter's 'When the Saints Go Marching In'. The song was supported by the addition of a jazz clarinet piece played by Paul Noden of Bridgend.

Everyone in Tabernacl, thoroughly enjoyed it. We look forward to the next concert on June 17.

Easter proves a tale of sunshine and showers

THE Easter Bank Holiday weekend began with a blaze of sunshine, but concluded on the Monday with torrential rain.

In Porthcawl, the streets were busy for each of the first three days, with cafes doing good business and walkers out enjoying the sea air along the promenade.

This year, many more were taking advantage of the new walkway which runs out to Rest Bay and beyond.

As usual, car parking spaces in and around the town were hard to find. However, all that

changed on Easter Monday and the only people out were wrapped in waterproofs or struggling with umbrellas in the strong wind.

It was a similar story in Barry, which has seen a 'Gavin and Stacey' boost in recent years. Marco Zeraschi of Marco's Cafe said: "We started off on Good Friday with sunshine and things were encouraging. Saturday and Sunday were normal business days - nothing spectacular - but Monday was a nightmare because of the rain."

"It highlighted the need for indoor facilities

when there is bad weather."

"In fairness, we had some great weather in the lead up to Easter, so it is a case of swings and roundabouts."

Church groups in the area were active, and on Good Friday the bandstand in John Street was the venue for a 'real meaning of Easter' event, with passers-by being asked for their thoughts on the holiday period.

A walk of witness took place in Barry on Good Friday led by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan with local churches taking part.

Traditional Easter services were held across the Vale and Bridgend on Sunday, and some local communities, such as Llanmaes, held Easter egg hunts for the children.

Some people chose an Easter getaway.

Cardiff Airport welcomed approximately 15,000 passengers

through its doors over the Easter period from April 5-10.

The most popular destination was Amsterdam, with travellers either spending a long weekend in the Dutch capital, or travelling onwards on connecting flights to world-wide destinations.

Sun spots such as the Canary Islands, Spain, Cyprus, Turkey, Egypt and Tunisia also attracted Welsh holidaymakers keen to enjoy some sun over the school holidays.

Spencer Birns of Cardiff Airport commented: "Easter signifies the start of the summer season for us,

which is especially exciting this year as we've welcomed a new airline, Vueling to the airport, who will be operating flights to Barcelona, Alicante and Palma, as well as a new tour operator to Cardiff, Cosmos, who will be operating weekly services to Orlando from the end of May."

Support group meets

AT the monthly meeting of the Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group (PPSG) the Parkinson's specialist nurse, Louise Ebenezer, came to talk about the drugs available for people with Parkinson's.

A similar range of drugs are used in other countries to treat people with the condition.

A question and answer session concluded an informative morning.

The next meeting is on Friday, April 30, at 10.45am in the Unitarian Chapel, Nottage; all are welcome.

For further information, telephone 01656 783071.

Best of British at Penta Pen-y-Bont

PENCOED WI recently held their final event as hosts of the Penta Pen-y-Bont link at the Buffs Club.

The evening was entitled 'The Best of British' and was just that: The menu was fish (or chicken) and chips for England, followed by Welsh cakes, Scottish shortbread, and Irish liqueur chocolates.

The evening's entertainment was provided by the Plough Singers, an 18-strong 'Boy Band' plus an accompanist. For 45 minutes, they sang a wide variety of popular songs.

During the break, the raffle was held and then they were back for a sing-a-long. From 'Rule Britannia' to 'Delilah', 'Molly Malone' to 'Flower of Scotland'. For half an hour they exercised their voices and waved flags.

The evening ended with every one standing to sing 'Jerusalem' and 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'. More than 90 ladies agreed it had been an excellent evening.

Pencoed had concluded their link year on a high note. A really big thank you went to president Val, who came up with all the ideas for the past year's events.

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A 21st BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AS SANDVILLE COURT COMES OF AGE!



Madeleine Moon MP being welcomed to Sandville Court by Sister Gwyneth Poacher.

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN

ON Good Friday, Sandville Court celebrated its 21st Birthday.

Yes, it has been 21 years since the Sandville Self-Help Foundation moved into what was a very dilapidated Pen-y-Mynydd House near Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club.

The Sandville Self-Help Centre was founded on February 3, 1983, but did not have a permanent home until Pen-y-Mynydd House was purchased.

The centre formally took over and moved into this premises on April 6, 1991 and it was 'sort of officially' opened during a visit by the Duchess of Kent on June 25, 1993.

The Duchess arrived in a helicopter, which landed on the Pyle and Kenfig Golf Course. She was received by the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Murray McLaggan, before being presented to various dignitaries and guests.

Sister Gwyneth Poacher was the last to be introduced, wearing her ever faithful yellow T shirt. The Duchess made quite an issue of the T shirt, which naturally made Gwyneth's day as so many people wouldn't believe that she was not going to dress up for the occasion.

Before unveiling a plaque to commemorate her visit, the Duchess was given a guided tour of the complex, where she was introduced to Mike Poacher and the catering team, as well as John and his crew of builders, who were still doing construction work on the site.

While the Duchess was being entertained at Sandville Court, the local kids, by all accounts, had a field day, with the police ferrying them back and forth in their cars to the Royal helicopter, which they were allowed to sit in and have a Royal sweet.

In June of the same year, Sister Gwyneth

RIGHT: Madeleine Moon MP entering into the spirit of the occasion by helping to serve drinks and Birthday Cake for the 21st birthday celebrations.

Poacher was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, which she duly received from Her Majesty the Queen at Cardiff Castle on October 15, 1993. An added honour as this was the first ever Welsh Investiture.

Many 21st birthday cards were received from well wishers and Sandville Court's 21st anniversary celebrations went off with a bang. Many bangs, actually, as the balloons hung up for the occasion seemed very unstable and decided to burst without any warning, making everyone sit up and take notice.

However, this did not distract from a visit by Madeleine Moon MP, who spent some time in the centre chatting to and serving the many patients and guests who were there.

Madeleine was followed by a visit from the Mayor and Consort of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara and Mr Bob Stubbs. To bring the day to a perfect close, a birthday cake was cut up and distributed and 'Dout', the singing plumber, was on hand to join with Gwyneth and all those present in wishing Sandville Court a very happy 21st birthday with the singing of the traditional song.



ABOVE: The end of a perfect day: 'Dout' the singing plumber and Gwyneth lead those present with a rendering of 'happy 21st birthday Sandville Court'.

LEFT: The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs, and consort Bill Stubbs, with Gwyneth, Gary and volunteers.



ABOVE: The Duchess unveiling the plaque to commemorate her visit to Sandville Court.

BELOW: Pen-y-Mynydd House in the late 1970s.



FLASHBACK: The Duchess of Kent is introduced to Sister Gwyneth Poacher by Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Murray McLaggan.



ABOVE LEFT: The Church of St Michael.

ABOVE RIGHT: The all important swimming therapy pool.

LEFT AND RIGHT: Sandville Court today, showing the extension to the property, the conservatory and log cabin.



'Fine the dog poo owners!' call by campaigners

A CAMPAIGN is being launched to persuade Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to employ private dog fouling and litter enforcers.

Campaigner Ian Spiller, who lives on the Broadlands estate, Bridgend, is one of those calling for better enforcement of the dog fouling by-laws.

Mr Spiller has put in Freedom of Information requests to BCBC which revealed that only one person has been fined for allowing their dog to foul in the last year, despite the fact that the council employs four wardens with powers to issue fixed penalty notices.

Mr Spiller said that Broadlands was covered in dog faeces: "There is dog poo along most of the paths on the estate. The council will come and cleanse it if we complain, but they never send the enforcement officers out here."

"The only way to get



Campaigner Ian Spiller and Coun Ken Watts are suggesting BCBC use outside contractors to tackle the problem of dog fouling in the area.

on top of the problem is to deter dog owners from allowing their pets to foul. If a few owners were given spot fines, it would go a long way to reducing the problem."

Mr Spiller is being backed by Coun Ken Watts, who has put a number of questions into the council about dog fouling enforcement.

"I was told that the council is now giving out cautions to people

who are caught allowing their dogs to foul. But when I asked how many people had been cautioned, I was told that no records had been kept.

"How on earth would the council know if someone had already been cautioned if there are no records? It was ludicrous. I have been told that they are now keeping a record of people who have been warned so that they can be fined if they commit a second offence.

"Between April 2007 and March 2008, the council issued over 500 fixed penalties for littering and dog fouling. I am querying why they decided to issue cautions instead, especially with no record keeping involved."

Mr Spiller is calling on BCBC to follow Blaenau Gwent Council and employ an outside firm to enforce dog fouling laws.

"This firm takes 60 per cent of the fines which they use to cover their costs. It does not cost the council a penny and, in fact, they get 40 per cent of the revenue from fines for doing nothing."

"In the past six months alone, they have issued 1,000 fixed penalties at £75 a time for dog fouling and littering. This is a huge contrast to Bridgend, who have issued one fine for dog fouling and employ four people, although they also do litter and fly tipping enforcement."

"If they took on outside contractors, the four employees could concentrate on the other aspects of their job."

Ken Watts said that he would be asking the council to investigate the possibility of taking on outside contractors.

"I gather that the Vale Council is also considering this so it seems that this may well be the way to go if we are to deter irresponsible dog owners from allowing their pets to foul and create a health hazard for other residents, especially children."

Lindsay Thomas

Musical competitions A CHILDREN'S musical eisteddfod is being held in Treorchy Primary School on June 30, with the closing date for entries on April 30.

There are various classes for both vocal and musical instruments.

The adjudicators are Phillip Evans, instrumental, piano and vocal; Ros Evans from Swansea (WNO) vocal; Norman Harris; instrumental and piano and Andrew Jones; brass.

For further information, phone Rhianon on 07791 375519 or email: rhianon-williams@yahoo.co.uk.

School concerts CŌR Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male voice choir) has recently taken part in two local primary school concerts.

The first was at Ffaldau, where the guest was Janice Gregory, AM for Ogmore.

Introductions to the various acts were by the pupils themselves, one of whom was Auttaya, the granddaughter of Ray Tippet, cŌr meibion's bass singer.

The concert began with Ffaldau school choir giving excellent renditions of 'This Day', 'Calon Lan' and 'Sunshine, Showers and Rainbows'.

This was followed by traditional Welsh folk dancing by pupils from year-3 and CŌr Meibion then performed three Welsh airs. Year-6 acted out a Welsh sketch and the school choir then returned with its versions of 'Pwy Wnaeth' (who made), 'Sospas Fach' and 'Believe'.

Year-5 then put on a sketch titled 'Gwyliau' (holidays) with all being dressed for a sunny holiday except one young lad wearing winter clothing.

This was followed by an interval, with the school choir starting the second half with a rock-'n'-roll 60s style, including a hand jive of 'Monster Mash', then Katy Perry's 'Firework' and 'Wherever you are', the major hit by the military wives choir.

CŌr Meibion sang three more songs, followed by the school choir with its foot tapping rendition of 'Rocking All Over The World' and Jessie J's 'Price Tag'.

The choristers of CŌr Meibion also travelled up to Manchester to participate in the thousand voice concert at the MEN arena, held to

celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Festival on March 24.

There were 32 different choirs taking part, most from Wales, some from England and one from the southern hemisphere – the Australian Welsh Male Choir.

The concert was conducted by the renowned Dr Alwyn Humphries, MBE; accompanist on the piano was Caradog Williams and on the organ the celebrated Tregelles Williams OBE.

Guest artists included the talented 13-year-old violinist Charlie Lovell-Jones of Ysgol Glantaf, Cardiff; 13-year-old soprano Rhys Meilor of Llangefni; Kate Harwood, a sixth form student from Morriston, Swansea; and 21-year-old tenor from Neath, Joshua Mills, a student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Joshua had had a busy weekend, on the Friday evening he had taken part in the annual concert of the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir in Maesteg Town Hall.

One unlucky youngster was the Urdd Welsh National Youth Eisteddfod winner was Rhidian Jenkins, a pupil at Ysgol Gyfan Gymraeg Llangynwyd, whose soprano voice had recently broken.

Charitable ladies

THE Glades, a group of ladies who help local charities, meet in Aberkenfig Conservative Club on Tuesday evenings between 8pm and 10pm.

On April 17 at 7.30pm the group will be donating £4,500 to seven different worthwhile causes. Well done, ladies!

Auditions
MAESTEG Amateur Operatic Society will produce a pantomime in November at Maesteg Town Hall, based on the story of Cinderella, and is looking for young persons aged 16 and over to act as the principal characters.

Auditions will be held in St Michaels and All Angels church in Maesteg on Saturday April 14 from 12 noon onwards.

If any readers are interested, contact Sarah Thomas on 07922 218462.

Carers' centre
BRIDGEND Carers' Centre at 87 Park Street, Bridgend (tel 01656 658479), has

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynnycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

a series of events planned:

Tuesday April 17: the REVIVE group, discuss with carers any difficulties they may be encountering with mental health or substance misuse.

On April 19 the outreach group will have the Citizen's Advice Bureau in attendance at Maesteg council offices between 10am and 1pm.

Also on April 19 there is the 'Body Blitz' exercise class between 1.30pm and 2.30pm with a fully qualified instructor Darija. Contact Davina at the centre.

Aberkenfig WI meetings

ABERKENFIG and District WIs' spring council meeting will be held in Barry on May 18. The speaker will be Lowri Morgan, S4C presenter.

There will be an evening with Ingrid Seward in Swansea on June 13. She is editor-in-chief of Majesty magazine and will be talking about the 60 years of the Queen's reign.

A treasure trail walk round Cardiff Bay is on June 20, and on June 25 a 'day school' will be held at WI Federation

Quiz League posers

HERE are your four specials:

1) Where in the human body is the temporal bone situated?
2) Which gulf to the north of Estonia is the easternmost arm of the Baltic Sea?

3) Who, in 1990, in Tokyo, was the first boxer to beat Mike Tyson in a pro contest?

4) In which town or city, better known for its football team, is the company headquarters of the car manufacturer Volkswagen?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

4. Wolfsburg
3. Buxton Douglas
2. Gulf of Finland
1. The skull
QUIZ ANSWERS:

House in Port Talbot on textile jewellery.

The Glamorgan show at the North Cornelly community centre and public hall will be held on July 28.

On August 8, Aberkenfig WI will be taking to the road for their annual trip, destination to be confirmed.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig and District WI will be on April 11 when the speaker will be Steve Gorwill, whose subject is 'A Traffic Policeman's

Lot'. The competition will be for an item beginning with the letter 'C' and there will be a cake stall.

New members and visitors are welcome at the meetings of Aberkenfig WI on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

For further details please contact secretary Pat Lewis on 01656 721933 or visit: www.cobwebs.co.uk under the letter 'A'.

BRIDGE IN BRIDGEND

THE latest results from Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

Wednesday, April 4, – first, Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner, second, Di Jones and Wendy Williams, third, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday at 7pm in Nolton Church

Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Fridays (with Graham Jones at 7.30pm) and for improvers (Wednesdays at 2.30 with John Beard). All are welcome.

To register an interest contact one of: John Beard 01446 771445, Graham Jones 01446 771445, Steve Burgoyne 01656 661958 or David Newman 01656 641938.

Community award for local cadet



Cdt Cpl Jordan Aston with his award.

CADET Corporal Jordan Aston was nominated by his form teacher, Mrs White, to receive the Pyle Community Council Trophy for his activities in both school and the ATC.

The award is for the student who has shown the most determination, courage or initiative in the care and service of others in the Kenfig Hill community.

Cdt Cpl Aston was "very pleased" to receive the award and Flt Lt Barry C Thomas, Officer Commanding, said: "I am pleased that Cdt Cpl

Aston's ATC service has played a part in his achieving this award.

"The Squadron has always been an important part of the community and many young people benefit by being a part of the organisation."

If you are at least 13 years old, why not join 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC?

We are also looking for adult staff members and civilian committee members.

We parade on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7pm to 9.30pm. For more information call 01656 670125 on parade nights.

Lindsay Thomas

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Christmas card campaign success



United Graphic Systems of Bridgend ran a Christmas card scheme last year when specially-designed cards by children at Y Bont were sold to local businesses, with all proceeds going to the charity. A total of £340.85 was raised for Y Bont. The above photograph shows staff and children at the charity receiving their cheque.

As the economic squeeze tightens on families...

Bridgend Foodbank feeds 2,845 people in county borough

THE statistics for what has been the second full financial year for Bridgend Foodbank show what we already knew; that we are continuing to get busier and busier, a spokesperson reports.

During the 2010/2011 year, we fed 1,076 people (676 adults and 400 children). In the last year, this rose to 2,845 people (2,010 adults and 835 children), almost three times as many, a spokesman reports.

The top reason for clients to receive a voucher was a delay in benefits (33 per cent). The second reason, unsurprising in the current economic situation, was low income (21 per cent).

The third reason is perhaps more so, homelessness (13 per cent). Other reasons include changes to benefits, debt, domestic violence, unemployment, the refusal of a crisis loan, sickness,

delayed wages and children's meals during school holidays.

Since last April, we have opened distribution centres in Pontycymer and Maesteg, and are now open in Porthcawl on a Tuesday as well as a Friday.

We continue to be open in Nolton Street, Bridgend on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, in Bettws on Wednesdays and in North Cornelly on Thursdays.

We have also enjoyed a great deal of support from the local community and businesses. Last summer, we became Sainsbury's Bridgend's Local Charity of the Year.

The team there have been very supportive and customers have donated an enormous 2.55 tonnes of food via our food collection boxes in store (this is enough to feed roughly 100 families for three days).

More collection boxes are springing up throughout the borough (you may already have seen

them in the Co-ops in Pyle and Porthcawl or at the Principality Building Society in Bridgend and Porthcawl). Churches and schools rallied at harvest time to provide us with 7.6 tonnes of food, which gave a much-needed boost to our stocks (Easter eggs for all clients were also donated by Pen-y-Fai Church in Wales Primary School).

Our unsafe front window in Bridgend was replaced by GRM Windows Ltd of Pontyclun. It was a real answer to our prayers, and has given us a more welcoming frontage.

We would like to conclude by thanking everyone who has contributed in any way at all to our work during the course of the year.

It can be sad to realise the hardships that are still around in this day and age. However, it's a privilege to work with so many in our community who are committed to helping others who find themselves in need.

Porthcawl town Mayor reports back in...

'Apologies for my absence, due to my indisposition'

FIRST of all, may I send my sincere apologies to all the readers of The GEM, as well as The GEM's staff for sending in my monthly report a little late.

Once again, my injuries, caused by the crash in December, have taken their toll. I had broken vertebrae in the neck, which had not been detected in Kingsmill Hospital, Marshfield, where I was admitted after the accident.

It took a scan, fortunately arranged for me by Mr Stuart Jances, a specialist surgeon in Llandough Hospital, to detect it, and I was operated on in the University Hospital of Wales a fortnight ago. This obviously saved my life.

I am now on the mend at last and I am looking forward to taking up my mayoral duties and getting back out to serve the community once more.

Before the operation, I was able to attend the wonderful celebration of the 103rd birthday of Mrs Ann Jones, who is a resident in the Breaksea Hotel. She is an amazing lady who does not look her age, and has all the faculties functioning naturally, an inspiration to all of us!

I was able to attend the open day coffee morning held at The Rest to celebrate their 150th anniversary. It was wonderful to see so many people attending and my husband and I very much enjoyed listening to the presentation, which gave a detailed picture of the history of The Rest Home and its future plans.

I wish them every success and hope their dreams come true. They deserve it!

I was able to visit the Fairtrade coffee morning held at the bandstand in Porthcawl.

It was held to remind us all of Porthcawl's Fairtrade Partnership and despite the horrendous weather, it was extremely well attended. There were crowds of people there.

I was able to attend the 'Grace's Gift' charity evening in the Hi-Tide, which raised hundreds of pounds – a very successful evening. My husband and I also attended the Charter Night of the Porthcawl Lions Club in the Atlantic Hotel, a wonderful evening.

The Porthcawl Lions Club's members do so much for the town organisations and chosen charities. They deserve our thanks for all their hard work, all on a voluntary basis.

The Eisteddfod highlights concert held at St John's School once again showed the fantastic skills and talents our young people of Porthcawl have.

As a member of the Grand Pavilion Advisory Group, the meeting I attended reminded me how hard the staff and management work and how well the Grand Pavilion is doing.

I was unable to attend the KRUF silent auction held in the Prince of Wales Bowls' Club, but I understand it was a huge success, as was their Walk for Life which began in the Seagulls' Pub, West Park Drive, to raise funds for Kidney Foundation of Wales.

Chaired by Mrs Jean Schofield, they deserve as much support as possible.

I was able to attend the fish and chip luncheon at the Hi-Tide, held by the Cancer Research UK committee of Porthcawl. They were formed in 1965 and, since then, have worked so hard and have managed to raise an enormous amount of money. I hope their hard work continues to reap them the rewards they deserve.

I sincerely apologise for all the functions I was not able to attend this month because of my admittance to hospital to undergo my operation.

The RAF presentation in Bridgend College, the gala dinner for the Mayor of Bridgend county borough's charities, the 50th anniversary tea of the Porthcawl Library, the Cor Bro Ogwr concert at All Saints Church, the Palm Sunday

Remembrance Service at Margam Crematorium, the 60th diamond wedding celebration of Mr and Mrs Jones of Merlin Close – all of these functions I am afraid I was unable to attend. I wish to thank the Deputy Mayor and past Mayors for attending the functions I have been unable to.

I was also unable to attend the quiz organised by the Civic Fund Committee at The Prince, in order to raise funds for my mayoral charities – Barnardo's, Tenovus and RNLI.

I understand it went extremely well. My many thanks go out to all of the Civic Fund Committee members who worked so hard to organise this event.

I was asked to call into the Atlantic Hotel to attend the coffee morning, again organised by the Civic Fund Committee members for my mayoral charities.

Many thanks go out to those residents of Porthcawl who used their time to visit – including our MP, Madeleine Moon.

I have to admit it was, sadly, not attended as well as the committee had hoped. Lets hope things will pick up this month.

The committee is holding, in aid of my mayoral charities, a gala dinner at the Grand Pavilion on Friday April 20. Tickets are £25 each and include a Bucks Fizz reception, a three-course meal, coffee/tea and mints, guest speaker, entertainment and dancing until midnight. There will be a raffle and an auction on the night.

I do hope as many of you as possible can come. Tickets are available from the Civic Fund Committee.

I am very much looking forward to the month ahead and my return to service the community of Porthcawl. I have missed you all so much. I cannot stress this enough.

Take care. I shall write to you at the end of the month.

COUN BARBARA STUBBS,
Mayor of Porthcawl

The blessing of Easter at St Theodore's Church



THE Rev Jonathan Durley, of the Parish of Kenfig Hill, with Palm Parade and Blessing of Palms on Palm Sunday; and handing out Easter egg cakes with a choir boy on Easter Sunday at St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill. Pictures by Keith E Morgan

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bridgend-today.co.uk



Wishing BYT cast good luck!



Among those wishing the cast of 'Billy - The Musical' luck were COUN Colin Teesdale, COUN Barbara Stubbs (The Mayor of Porthcawl) and Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon.

Photograph by **KEITH E MORGAN.**
(SEE PAGE 8 FOR A REVIEW AND PHOTOGRAPHS).

BRIDGEND LEARNERS TEAM UP TO WIN MONEY FOR LIFE CHALLENGE (and fly the flag for Wales!)

A TEAM of young learners from Bridgend will carry the Welsh flag proudly in the UK Grand Final of the Money for Life Challenge after winning the Wales final at Cardiff City Stadium last week.

The rising cost of food that leaves many people with little money at the end of the week to spend on other household essentials inspired the 'Don't Buy Posh - Save Your Dosh' team from ACT Training Bridgend to come up with money-saving advice for young people.

The team will now present their money management project to a panel of high profile judges at the UK Grand Final in London on May 23, where they will have a chance to win £2,500 for a charity of their choice, £100 of Bonus Bonds for each member and a Lloyds Banking Group mentor for a year.

The team - Paige Sparrow, Ryan Gardener, Alex Mayhew and Shannon Mears - provide an insight into buying own-brand foods that needn't cost the



The winning 'Don't Buy Posh - Save Your Dosh' team from ACT Training Bridgend with Sarah Porretta from Lloyds Banking Group.

earth. They targeted other young people at their training centre aged between 16-18 years who were often spending large amounts on their weekly shop without realising the savings they could make.

They also set up their own Value Café, within the common room at ACT Training with a menu using value foods.

The team also cooked a meal for a local community group Mental Health Matters with taste sessions hosted to demonstrate how own brands were just as good

as other well known food brands.

"It's shocking and amazing to win and to represent our country in London," said Paige.

"We plan to have dragons printed on our pinnies for the UK Grand Final. The project has boosted our confidence and the teamwork has been brilliant."

The competition is designed to find the most successful and innovative ways to improve the money management skills of learners, their friends, families and communities. The teams applied

for small grants to run various money management activities.

Money for Life Challenge is part of the Money for Life programme, a unique partnership between Lloyds Banking Group and further education sector partners in the four nations of the UK.

Sarah Porretta, head of the Money for Life Programme at Lloyds Banking Group, said:

"I am so impressed with the originality, creativity and enthusiasm shown by the teams, which is really inspiring."

The Challenge

focuses on equipping a new generation with the skills they need to best manage their money, helping them to realise their everyday needs and lifetime goals and allowing them to develop these skills and put them into practice.

"We look forward to welcoming the winning team to the UK Grand Final to be held on May 23. I only wish we could take all the Welsh finalists."

The other Welsh finalists were Debtly Matters from St David's Catholic College, Cardiff Drive Well Spend Less from ACT Training in Cardiff, Every Penny Counts from Port Talbot A4e Centre and Budget Brainstormers from Carmarthen Youth Project.

The teams came up with innovative ideas, including money saving websites, advice on how to save on fuel and car costs, using drama and a workshop to spread money management skills to young people and buying own-brand foods to cut shopping bills.

DUNCAN FOULKES

Musical touch of Wild West

AFTER a winter of rehearsing, CAOS are bringing a touch of the Wild West to the Vale this spring.

Their 2012 production is *Calamity Jane*, which re-creates the famous 1953 film starring Doris Day and Howard Keel.

It features songs such as *The Deadwood Stage*, *Windy City* and *Secret Love*, along with many others.

Under the direction of Mary Jeffreys and the baton of John

Murray, local talent such as Joanne Lee Mallett and Nick James as *Calamity* and *Wild Bill*, with a full supporting cast and orchestra, the story is brought to life.

The show runs from April 18-21 at 7.30pm at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

Tickets are now available from society members, Chris Williams Optometrist Llantwit Major, Davies Newsagents Cowbridge, and from 01446 773169.

Plaid unveils candidates

PLAID CYMRU has announced its local council election candidates for the Bridgend and Ogmore constituencies.

Malcolm James will defend his Llangynwyd seat, joined by Danny Clark (Ynysawdre) and Nicola Thomas (Aberkenfig). Kyle Duggan and Gareth Huw Ifan will contest Maesteg East, while Wayne Howells and Dai Berry are set for Maesteg West.

In the Bridgend constituency, former Plaid Assembly candidate Tim

Thomas, and Sara Thomas contest the two Morfa ward seats.

Also in the Bridgend constituency, Plaid have selected former Westminster candidate, Nick Thomas, along with David Thomas for the Brackla ward; David Bolton (Oldcastle), Nigel Howe (Pendre) and Alan Roberts, Porthcawl East Central. Sian Davies will also contest the Newton ward.

Plaid also unveiled a number of town council candidates including a strong presence in the Plaid-controlled Llangynwyd Community Council.

Amelia (5) in her Easter hat!



THE picture shows Amelia Powell (5) ready for the Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School Easter hat parade!

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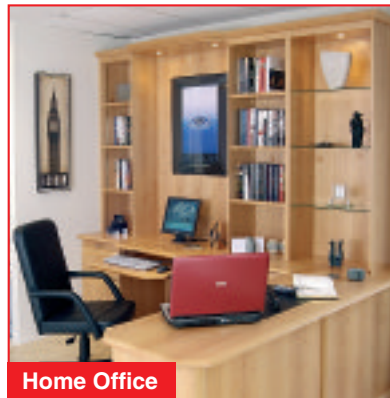


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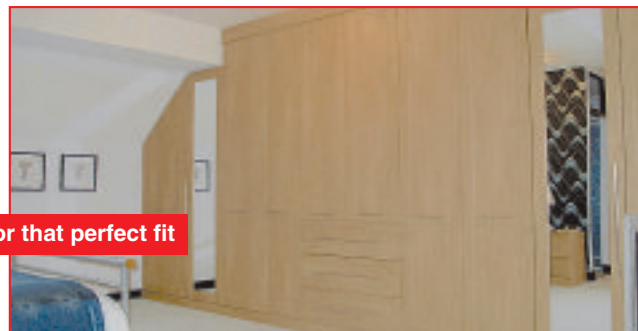


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BRIDGEND YOUTH THEATRE BRING 'LOST' ENGLISH MUSICAL TO LIFE

REVIEW by PHILIP IRWIN

It is never easy to predict which shows the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) will take on.

Last year it was a crowd pleaser – *The King and I* – while the year before it was the dark and challenging *Sweeney Todd*.

This year, BYT director Roger Burnell went for a 'lost' English classic in *Billy – The Musical*, which comes with a very good pedigree.

After all, a show based on Keith Waterhouse's novel, *Billy Liar*, music by John Barry and lyrics by Don Black, and with Clement and La Frenais providing the dialogue, ought to be a fixture in the West End. Instead, it is pretty much forgotten.

Maybe there is a law that states that you can't have two hit shows with 'Billy' in the title.

The story revolves around young Billy Fisher, played superbly by Joe Wiltshire-Smith. Billy's problem is an over-active imagination and a tendency to retreat into a dream world rather than deal with day to day life.

Waterhouse's novel asks whether he can take that step out into the real world, rather than staying 'safe' in his imagination.

Billy's tall tales and lies mean that he has three girls in his life – and is engaged to two of them.

There is Rita (Dana Jeaynes) who is attractive but common as muck. Then there is Barbara (played by Harmony Miller on the night I saw) who is a dull, prudish home-maker.

Finally, there is Liz (Mel Stevens) who is sexy and his true soulmate.

Tough choice eh?

Unfortunately, for Billy it is a tough choice, because being with Liz will mean taking a leap in the dark and heading off to London to seek their fame and fortune.

Apart from demonstrating the company's singing and dancing skills, Billy gives the young cast a chance to try out their regional accents.

Waterhouse came from Yorkshire and we are very much in Last of the Summer Wine and Geoffrey Boycott territory.

The scenes in Billy's home give Jack Hughes-Davies and Lowri Izzard, as his mum and dad, together with Hannah Dando as his grandmother, a chance to go wildly over the top with their Yorkshire accents – and they got plenty of laughs in the process.

Corey Bridgeman, as Billy's best friend Arthur, is another BYT member whom makes the most of every line, and he is an accomplished dancer as well.

There was strong support from Dave Garner (as Coun Duxbury) and from Ieuan Briers as Shadrack, Billy's boss.

However, the focus of the show is inevitably Billy, together with the three girls in his life.

Joe Wiltshire-Smith played the title role and, as he seems to have been a fixture in the BYT for years, there is a tendency to take him for granted these days.

If he messed up it might be noteworthy, but Joe always seems so assured on stage that he makes it all look very easy. To go from Jean Valjean for *Portchawl Comprehensive* to a comedy role such as Billy shows just how versatile he is.

The songs in Billy are all well within his range, so he had no chance to really show off his voice, but this role stretched him in other ways.

He has to get across that Billy, despite his comedy talents, is too scared to follow his dreams, and yet still make him sympathetic.

Harmony Miller, as Barbara, has to play a character that is a figure of fun and does a fine job. Vocally, she has really made great strides in recent years, and has a really strong and warm voice.

Dayna Jeaynes made Rita a brassy, loud and pushy girl, and she also has a strong stage presence.

Mel Stevens, as Liz, is another BYT regular from whom you routinely expect excellence, and she did not disappoint. Mel



ABOVE:
Billy with Liz (played by Mel Stevens).

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN www.randelljohnphotography.com 01656 662324

will be starting at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and is another one to watch in the future.

The orchestra, under the direction of Mike Plowman, were once again excellent, as was the choreography from Lizzie Davies Macmillan.

Roger Burnell's direction, as usual, makes sure the young cast are all contributing to telling the story.

I have described Billy as a comedy, and that is true of the first half. The second half is quite sad, and the show has a real downbeat ending, when Billy chickens out of joining Liz on her adventure.

Perhaps that explains why the show is not performed that often, despite its many virtues. *Billy Elliot* has a real feel good ending, while *Billy Liar* is the opposite.

Sad endings can work if they are dramatic and uplifting, just look at *West Side Story* or *Carousel*, but Billy's downbeat conclusion is not in that league.

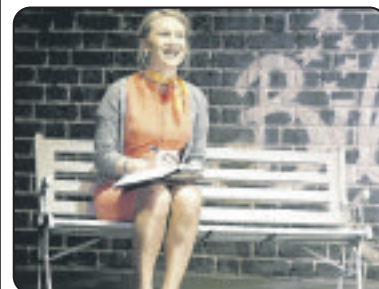
That said, this show was yet another high quality effort from the BYT, warmly appreciated by the audience, and this young company is a credit to the borough.

(See next week for the cast list and more photographs).



ABOVE: Billy (Joe Wiltshire-Smith) with a passionate fan club in one of his dream sequences.

BELOW:
Billy back home with his father, played by Jack Hughes-Davies.



ABOVE: Harmony Miller as Barbara, makes plans for her future with Billy.



ABOVE:
Dave Garner as Coun Duxbury.



ABOVE: Well, Corey Bridgeman did say he'd give his right arm for a lead role!

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS

Pisgah Ladies Fellowship COFFEE evening – It is very refreshing when, in this day and age, an organisation can put the need of others above theirs.

It happened recently when the Ladies Fellowship from Pisgah Chapel, who are in dire need of funds to pay for the restoration of their chapel organ, held a coffee evening to help the local community centre.

It was an extremely successful evening, during which they were entertained with a demonstration of gift wrapping and a game of bingo.

Following this, they sold home-made cakes and marmalade, and hand crafts, raising a superb £270, which they donated to a small local charity, the Talbot Community Centre.

Wellbeing Centre ACTIVITIES being

held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday April 18 include: reading group from 1.30pm to 2.30pm and an education programme for patients talk from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. There will also be a social afternoon from 1pm to 5pm.

Neighbourhood Watch
Mobile phones – A local man was in court last week after being caught using his mobile phone while driving in the Pyle area.

He pleaded guilty and received a fine of £360.

Pyle NPT are hoping that this sends out a strong and positive message to those whom are likely to commit road

traffic offences.

PACT update – In response to parking problems highlighted at the last PACT meeting, at least 15 fixed penalty notices have been issued in the High Street, Waunbant Road, Croft Goch, Bridge Street and Pisgah Street, all areas of Kenfig Hill.

Grand Slam
IT was much appreciated when Alan Phillips, Kenfig Hill RFC president and Welsh team manager, brought the Six Nations trophy along for members to view and have their photographs taken with.

This is the second time that members have had the opportunity to see a major trophy at the club after Alan recently brought the Triple Crown along.

This really excited the junior players, who are hoping to play for both one day.

Charity golf event
GOLFERS wanted – KPC Youth, the charity for young people, will be holding their charity golf day at the Grove Golf Club, near Porthcawl, on June 22.

This is your chance to enjoy a day's golf with friends or colleagues and support a local charity at the same time. A team of four costs £160, or £140 if booked before April 30. The cost will include coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet lunch following the round of golf.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

KPC are seeking sponsorship for a raffle and auction prizes, or £50 to sponsor a hole.

For entry forms and further details contact Alison Mawby at KPC Youth, located next to Pil Primary School, off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, Bridgend, CF33 6AB, or ring 01656 749219/745399.

Talbot Community Centre
THE Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, formerly known as the Talbot Institute, is a small charity, currently thriving because of the hard work put in by volunteers and those employed on a part paid, part voluntary basis, and support from local people.

However, in the present economic climate it is very difficult for them to get funding, donations and other types of income.

They very much appreciate the donations received such as raffle prizes, books and jigsaws.

They would also like to thank Bethel Community Church, Pisgah Ladies Fellowship and the Pyle Community Council for the money donated by them over the past year.

GLAZE MUSIC afternoon
– The charity afternoon of music hosted by ex Welsh rugby international Ray Giles in aid of GLAZE Prostate Cancer at the Princess of Wales Hospital was most entertaining.

It was also held at an appropriate time, as it coincided with the 65th birthday of Howard Phillips, Chairman of Kenfig Hill RFC.

What a success it turned out to be with a magnificent £500 being raised for GLAZE.

Accolade for a legend!
IT is only on very special occasions that both the home and visiting players line up to applaud a fellow player taking the field; however, this was the case recently when Kenfig Hill AFC entertained promotion challengers Treforest FC in the First Division of the South Wales Amateur League.

On this occasion, the plaudits were for Kenfig Hill legend Stuart Davies, who was playing in his 510th amateur league match for the club.

Stuart broke the existing record of 509 games, held by life member Peter James, who retired from the



Stuart Davies receives his accolades for breaking the Kenfig Hill AFC record appearance with 510 games for the club.

game in 2001.

These two are the only players to have broken the 500-game milestone for the first team during the 56 years that Kenfig Hill has played in the South Wales Amateur League.

Treforest showed their genuine respect for Stuart's remarkable achievement by presenting him with a bottle of bubbly before the kick-off.

Stuart has been an outstanding player and ambassador since making his debut for the club against local rivals Porthcawl Town on the September 1, 1993.

On March 12, 1994 he scored his first goal for the club before going on to break Dai Williams' 27-year-old record of 279 goals in February 2007.

Since then, Stuart has scored a further 57, making it 337 goals in 510 games, a truly remarkable record that will take some beating.

Among other club records held by Stuart is the highest number of hat-tricks, which presently stands at 23.

He has also scored four goals in a match on six occasions and five on two occasions.

It remains to be seen whether he can emulate David Williams' feat of scoring six goals in one match, which was achieved during an 8-1 win over Cwm Welfare in 1966.

However, this cannot be ruled out should he remain free of injury as he has proved time and time again that he is a club's striking dream.

LOYALTY TO CLUB

Over the years, Stuart has received many offers to play at a higher level, but has always remained committed and loyal to his local club, and for this Kenfig Hill will always be mighty thankful.

Now in the twilight of his playing career, Stuart has become club secretary and is at present organising a 'gentleman's evening' to be held at Blanco's on April 20, when Neil 'Razor' Ruddock will be the guest.

Everyone at the club hopes that Stuart will continue to enjoy playing for as long as possible, and they also wish him success in his new role in administration.



Members of Kenfig Hill RFC got their hands on a second major rugby trophy in two months as Wales' Grand Slam trophy visited the clubhouse.

Colwinston CC hunt for new players

COLWINSTON Cricket Club welcomes anyone who enjoys social cricket.

All our games are friendlies and played in good spirit. So if you are a teenager who wants to develop a bit or are somewhat older and enjoy a game and good company, then CCC is for you.

Home games take place at The Village Field Colwinston. The mid wicket/cover boundary is famous for being

short and players are discouraged from hitting the ball too often into the adjoining fields.

The ethos of the club is simple. All members are welcome, regardless of ability.

We have a youth policy so that usually means the team includes teenagers as well as more experienced players.

For more details, contact Ian Foxall on 07734 863529, or email ian.foxall@hotmail.com

MB

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan Community Council

A meeting took place on April 2, when the following matters were discussed:

Speeding traffic:
Speed monitoring is continuing near Llangan Primary School, and 240 vehicles have been checked, with 47 drivers found speeding. Some were fined and penalty points imposed.

Speed checks through the village of Treoes have taken place more than one once, but I cannot recall any driver being prosecuted.

Treoes Hall: It has been reported that urgent repairs are needed on the wall of the community hall; the rendering on the right hand side of the entrance is breaking away and the gutters need clearing.

The council secretary will bring these problems to Creative Rural Communities and has applied for funding for the work to be carried out.

Llangan Hall:
Council clerk is to meet contractors for the installation of a compound for gas tank, as required by Health and Safety; and also for electricity work within the hall.

This work should have been carried out many years ago.

A request has been made for the replacement of a rubbish bin at Fferm Goch. Dog poo bins have been delivered

to Fferm Goch, but others are needed in Llangan.

Council elections:
James Mordecai and Loraine West will not seek re-election for Treoes and Llangan Community Council.

Young at Heart

ON April 5, club members enjoyed a coach trip to the St Mellons Garden Centre – and what an enjoyable visit it turned out to be, with plants of every kind, clothing and footwear at greatly-reduced prices.

We then commenced our journey to Caerphilly and arrived outside the town for lunch.

We then continued through the less congested main roads, eventually back to Treoes.

Once again, a big thank you to Anne Ellis, Barbara Grig and Marje Adams for their help with the less able club members.

Vestry
THE next event in the St Canna's vestry will take place on April 18 at 7.30pm – the theme being 'introduction to family history'.

Reminder
GO along to the Treoes Community Hall on Tuesday, April 24 and be entertained by the vocal ensemble 'Bella Donna'.

The concert will begin at 7.30pm and will cost £5 per ticket. Telephone Mary Crandon on 01656 861933.

MONKS WOOD ON THE MEND



VILLAGERS in Wick have taken the first steps to putting their community woodland – Monks Wood – back to its best.

Trees on the site, which is owned and managed as a community woodland by the Woodland Trust, were damaged by horses that were dumped on the site earlier this year.

The horses, which soon became desperate for food, stripped the bark

from many trees. Damage was also done to gates leading to the woodland.

So, on Good Friday, some of the villagers were busy planting 'withies' – willow saplings to the uninitiated.

George Jeffrey, on behalf of the Monks Wood team, told The GEM: "The Easter Monday rain did have a silver lining, because it helped our newly-planted withies settle in!"

St Athan offers 'bright new prospects'

Enterprise zone confirmed in Vale

THE new enterprise zone in the Vale, covering St Athan and Cardiff Airport, was confirmed recently at a launch meeting.

The announcement was made by the Business and Enterprise Minister, Edwina Hart AM, at the British Airways Maintenance

Centre (BAMC), where Vale AM Jane Hutt welcomed the Minister and the chair of the Enterprise Zone Planning Group, Professor Garel Rhys, for the launch of the St Athan and Airport Enterprise Zone.

It was pointed out that BAMC had taken on apprentices and also 160 new staff over the past year. Many of these, it

was stated, were local skilled aerospace engineers who had worked at St Athan.

Jane Hutt said: "The launch of the St Athan and Airport Enterprise Zone marks a significant commitment by the Welsh Government, with bright new prospects for the local economy and the wider aerospace sector in south-east Wales."

"We also heard the excellent news that BAMC will be undertaking the maintenance of the new 787 aircraft engines at the Rhoose site providing new opportunities for a skilled workforce."

"Professor Garel Rhys will lead the enterprise zone over the next few months to ensure we have the best start to this exciting new development for our local economy."

However, the Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has expressed his anger and frustration that Barry has been left in the cold.

Mr Cairns said: "Naturally, I am pleased that we are making progress at St Athan but am very sorry that Barry has missed out. It wasn't an either or - St Athan and Barry should have been included."

"I am also concerned that Wales is behind the game in the roll-out and delivery of these zones, with many zones in England already up and running."

"The Welsh Government need to act quickly to make their aerospace park become a reality as part of their enterprise zone scheme. I'm in touch with the MoD regarding the plans for the superhanger, and am optimistic about the outcome."

He returned to the subject of Barry: "I will continue to press the Welsh Government to extend the area to include Barry - to help regenerate the area and attract new employers. The case for Barry as an enterprise zone is convincing, with strong support from residents and businesses alike."

"Barry is Wales' biggest town and I do hope that the Welsh Government will heed our calls and help us reinvigorate and diversify employment for Barry."

PHILIP IRWIN

Art for Autism competition launched at Westminster



ABOVE: Alun Cairns MP (second on left) with fellow judges at the launch of the Create! Art for Autism 2012 competition.

BEECHWOOD College launched the national art competition, Create! Art for Autism 2012, at a parliamentary reception in London, hosted by Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale.

In its second year, the competition has attracted high profile judges, including TV presenters Jane Asher and Gaby Roslin, and

Mark Lever, chief executive of the National Autistic Society. The judging panel also includes Mr Cairns MP, Hugh Morgan, chief executive of Autism Cymru and Brendan Burns, twice winner of the National Eisteddfod Gold Medal in fine art and lecturer at the University of Glamorgan.

It is open to all young people aged 11-25 years with an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) including Asperger's Syndrome.

They are invited to enter the four main categories: 2D art, 3D art, digital art and poetry.

The finalists' artwork will form a national art tour involving Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham and London.

Closing date for the competition is May 18. Finalists will then be announced on June 12 and the awards ceremony will take place on July 6.

PM on election trail in Vale



Andrew RT Davies, David Cameron and Cheryl Gillan are pictured in Barry.

Prime Minister David Cameron, with Andrew R T Davies AM, Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the National Assembly, and Welsh Secretary Cheryl Gillan MP, were in the Vale last week to launch Welsh Tories' local election campaign.

Andrew R T Davies said: "It was a great privilege for the Prime Minister to join us on the campaign trail to back small businesses in Barry."

Supernatural visitors on Barry Island ghost train

THE famous seaside resort of Barry Island (known in Welsh as Ynys y Barri) gets its name from St Baruc from the 6th Century.

It looks out across the Bristol Channel, and remained as an isolated island until the 1880s. Barry Island was first documented in 1087, when the Vikings invaded the waters around the area.

Evidence of Stone Age settlements have also been found by archaeologists, who unearthed Mesolithic flint tools at Friars Point, as well as Bronze Age burial mounds or cairns.

Immigrants are thought to have flocked to the area, where indications of both Bronze Age and Iron Age Celtic cultures inhabited the island. A Celtic tribe, the Silures also left their mark, and even the Romans are thought to have occupied the islet.

It was during the Roman era that St Baruc, who was a disciple of St. Cadoc, visited the island, and on being sent back to Flat Holm to retrieve notes to read to the people from St Cadoc, drowned in the treacherous waters of the Channel.

His body was buried in a chapel dedicated to him in Friars Road, where its ruins are still visible.

The island would probably have been overshadowed by woodland during ancient times, so

it would only be possible to reach it by boat or on foot across the sands at low tide. But over time, the trees were felled to cultivate the land for farming.

The leisure park was founded by Vernon Studt from Bavaria, who began his life on the island dealing horses, before opening the first showground on Barry Island beach in the late 1800s.

During the 1880s, Barry Island (or peninsula as it is also known) became connected to the mainland when Barry town began to expand. Barry Docks was established by David Davies, and opened by the Barry Railway Company in 1896 when the line was completed to carry steam trains.

Butlins, on the hill at Nell's Point, was the smallest camp built in UK, opening for business in 1966. Over 800 chalets were built to accommodate people and Butlins sold the business in 1986 to Majestic Holidays. The camp eventually closed in 1996 with the land cleared by 2005.

Wales is known for its tales of myths and legends, and Barry Island seems to hold its own account of folklore and ghostly tales.

The hazy image of a lady dressed in old-fashioned clothing is understood to walk the hills around Whitmore Bay. It is not

known who she was, but why would this lady want to revisit a place that would be unrecognisable to her today, in a modern world beyond her understanding?

On clear, moonlit nights in the depths of the Bristol Channel, a mysterious ghost ship is said to trawl the seas around the island, only to vanish into thin air. Could this distinct image be a ship from a bygone era, or just an illusion of the mind?

Within the grounds of the Pleasure Park, the ghost train is thought to attract visitors of the supernatural kind. Trucks inside this fearful attraction have been said to run along the tracks on their own accord for no apparent reason.

One account describes an unrecognisable passenger travelling in one of the trucks, only to disappear in an instant. Who could this mysterious person be, and could they have had links with funfairs from a departed era?

The legend of aliens circling the skies around the island is a modern mythical tale. They are said to descend on the area in search of fish and other modern foodstuffs.

But is this a story of fantasy, or just a tale of make-believe? Fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

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'Wales the only part of the UK not to be electrified in any way...'

Warning that Vale railway line could be left in the cold

A TRANSPORT charity is claiming that the Vale railway system could miss out on investment, leaving it as an old, 'dirty' system that would hamper local development.

Lee Waters, the director of the sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, says that there is a real danger that the electrification of the valleys lines will exclude the Vale of Glamorgan line.

He told The GEM: "If the rest of the valleys network are upgraded and the line through Barry is not, we will face the prospect of old fashioned 'dirty' trains running slowly from the Vale into Cardiff, where passengers will have to change onto modern electric-powered trains for onward journeys.

"At a time when the passenger demand at Barry will be increasing, this sends all the wrong messages."

Mr Waters is calling for local politicians to put aside party interests to come together to campaign for the Vale line to be included in the electrification programme – a programme that is likely to be given the go-ahead over the next couple of months.

He said: "I think an alliance of all parties, Pride in Barry, the Vale Council and local businesses could be crucial in persuading the UK Department for Transport (DfT) to electrify the whole valleys network and not just the 'core' valleys – which is as I understand it the

by PHILIP IRWIN

current position."

Mr Waters said that he had been part of a cross-party delegation with businesses and charities to Westminster recently to lobby for the electrification of the whole of the valleys lines, and the mainline to Swansea.

He said that such infrastructure investment was not devolved, and would be assessed by the UK Government. As such, Wales would have to compete with a number of English schemes, including the Northern Hub (rail schemes in and around Manchester) and Midland Mainline Electrification.

Mr Waters said that he understood that, as things stand, the DfT is more likely to back the midlands than the Vale investment.

He added: "We need to make a united case for the wider benefits to the whole south Wales economy."

"A fully electrified network provides for the most efficient fleet and lowest cost operations, as well as providing a comprehensive foundation for a region wide economic regeneration."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "Having met the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss the issue just two weeks ago, I am delighted that the Prime Minister gave positive noises during his visit to Barry last Thursday."

"I ensured that when they talk about the Valleys line, that it also incorporates the Vale of Glamorgan line, too!"

"There are a few

issues that the Welsh Government and Department for Transport need to co-operate on but am I positive for a good outcome.

"It is hard to believe that Wales is the only part of the UK not to be electrified in any way."

"Those who are complaining loudest need to be aware of the record over the last 15 years, when we were left out of electrification."

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "The Welsh Government has submitted a business case to the UK Department of Transport for the electrification of the entire Valleys Rail network including the Vale."

"It is vital that the Vale of Glamorgan line is included in the electrification of the Valleys Lines, to support the regeneration of Barry and the successful implementation of the St Athan Enterprise Zone launched last week."

"I have raised this with the Transport Minister, Carl Sargeant AM and he has responded, saying, 'The UK Government will be deciding its rail investment priorities for England and Wales.. between now and July."

"I am in continuing dialogue with the Secretary of State for Transport, pressing the case for this investment in the strongest terms."

Paul Haley, of Pride in Barry, said that he supported any modernisation of the Vale railway line.

However, he felt that electrification was not the only answer.

He said: "There needs to be more joined-up thinking about the rail network."

"I travel to London on business and frequently face long waits on the platform, because connecting routes from the Vale and Valley lines are poorly synchronised with the trains to London."

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sporty ones, haughty ones, fluffy ones and scruffy ones.

DYFFRYN TALK

THE next meeting of The Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members will be held on April 18 at 7.30pm in the Duke of Wellington Hotel, Cowbridge.

Geraldine Donovan, project manager and site curator at Dyffryn Gardens will speak on 'Dyffryn House – The Restoration Story'.

Andrew RT Davies AM Conservative AM for South Wales Central



If you have any issues that you would like to raise with your local Assembly Member please contact Andrew:

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Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Gorsedd ceremony promises to be memorable

Gorsedd ceremonies

THE Gorsedd ceremonies are some of the most memorable moments at any National Eisteddfod – the Pavilion lights are dimmed and an expectant hush descends upon the capacity audience, as they await the fanfare of horns.

Lights sweep across a sea of faces until one, and only one person rises.

On stage, the Archdruid stands in his golden regalia while behind him, the green, blue and white robed rows of Gorsedd members make for a striking backcloth.

For the writers themselves, the drama will have started months before as they rush to get their entries in on time, using pseudonyms

instead of their real names. The winner's identity will be kept a very close secret known to only a few. The rest of the ceremony is just thrilling – it is one of the great spectacles of Welsh culture.

The Gorsedd of the Bards is a society of poets, writers, musicians, artists and individuals who have made a notable contribution to the nation, its language and culture.

It is the Gorsedd which is responsible for the pageantry of the National Eisteddfod of Wales and it organizes and presents the colourful and dramatic ceremonies which are held during the Eisteddfod.

The Gorsedd, as you may have read recently in The GEM, was the creative invention of Iolo Morgannwg, one of

Wales' most famous and eccentric scholars, who felt that it should be made known that the Welsh were the direct descendants of Celtic culture and heritage.

Iolo Morgannwg – or Edward Williams to give him his real name – was born at Pen-onn, near Llanccarfan, and was raised in the village of Flemingston in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Gorsedd of Bards first came together in 1792, not in Wales as you might expect, but on Primrose Hill in London. It made its first appearance at the Eisteddfod in Carmarthen in 1819, and from the time that the National was born in 1860-1861. Its close association with the festival has remained. Nowadays, an Eisteddfod without the Gorsedd of Bards is unthinkable.

The head of the Gorsedd of Bards is the Archdruid, who is elected for a term of three years, and is responsible for conducting the Gorsedd ceremonies during the Proclamation and Eisteddfod week. The current Archdruid is T James Jones or Jim Parc Nest to give his bardic name.

The ceremony in which the winning poet is chaired for composing a collection of poems, an ode or other poem – all in strict metre on a specific subject – is one of highlights of the Gorsedd of the Bards' pageantry at every National Eisteddfod. It is held on the Friday afternoon of the Eisteddfod week.

It is a very old ceremony. The custom of competing for a chair in the King's court was already well-established in Hywel Dda's time in the tenth century and when the Lord Rhys held his Eisteddfod. In Cardigan in 1176, the prize for the chief poet and chief musician was a chair each.

Having re-established the eisteddfodic movement in Bala in 1789, winning the chair became the ambition of every poet, although there was no Gorsedd ceremony associated with it yet.

It was at the first provincial Eisteddfod in Dyfed/Dinefwr in Carmarthen in 1819 that Iolo succeeded in linking the rites of the Gorsedd of the Bards with the ceremony of Chairing the winning Bard.

In 1867, it was decid-



ed to assign the chair for an ode in strict metre and to award a crown for the best pryddest in free metre.

The chairing ceremony at 1917 Birkenhead Eisteddfod was both memorable and harrowing. Hedd Wyn was the bardic name of Ellis Humphrey Evans, a Trawsfynydd shepherd and gifted poet.

Following success in local competitions and a second place for the chair in the National Eisteddfod at Aberystwyth, Ellis set his sights on the chair at the Birkenhead Eisteddfod of 1917.

Ellis joined the thousands of soldiers serving on the Western Front during World War I and drew upon his wartime experiences to write the poem *Yr Arwr* (*The Hero*), which describes the realities of war for both the soldiers and their families back home.

Back in Birkenhead, as the judges called out the name of the victorious bard, there was silence in the auditorium. Hedd Wyn had been

killed six weeks earlier on July 31, 1917, during the battle for Pilckem Ridge, Ypres.

After the war, a petition was submitted to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and it was granted that his grave in Belgium did not read simply E H Ellis, but Y Prifardd Hedd Wyn (The Principal Bard, Hedd Wyn).

The crowning ceremony, which is held on the Monday of the Eisteddfod week, is an equally impressive ceremony.

During this ceremony for the first time during the Eisteddfod week the 'Flower Dance' will be performed. The Flower Dance is a colourful part of the Gorsedd ceremonies.

Local girls are chosen to perform the dance, which is based on a pattern of flower gathering from the fields.

Girls aged nine to 11 from all over the Vale of Glamorgan were invited to an open audition last year to select the Flower Dancers; 34 were successful and performed the dance for the first time at the Proclamation Ceremony in Barry which was held in June. The dance portrays the

gathering of meadow flowers and the girls dress in green tunics adorned with wild flowers. However, it is a comparatively recent rite. It was performed for the first time at the M a c h y n l l e t h

Proclamation ceremony in 1936 and it was devised by Cynan, the Gorsedd Recorder, and junior school teachers from the area.

One of the most prominent roles played during these ceremonies will be that by ex-Scarlets and Wales rugby player Robin McBryde as the Grand Sword Bearer. It will be Robin who carries the Great Gorsedd sword during the Gorsedd processions and during the Ceremonies themselves holding it aloft to the Archdruids' call for peace.

Carrying a sword was one of the rituals in Iolo Morgannwg's first Gorsedd held in Primrose Hill. Iolo, a pacifist, wanted to emphasise that the Bards met in peace and when a naked sword was placed on the Logan Stone (the main stone in the middle of the Gorsedd Circle where the Archdruid stands) they proceeded to

sheath it as a symbol of peace in Gorsedd.

In 1888, Phillip Yorke of Erddig Hall presented a ceremonial sword to the Gorsedd which was used until the turn of the century. Then, in 1899, Professor Hubert Herkomer designed a Grand Sword for the Gorsedd. On the scabbard the following mottoes were inscribed:

"Y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd" (The Truth against the World, motto of the Gorsedd of the Isle of Britain); "Duw a phob Daioni" (God and all Goodness, the Chair of Glamorgan and Gwent); "Calon wrth Galon" (Heart to Heart, the Chair of Dyfed); "A Laddo a Lledir" (He who Kills shall be Killed, the Chair of Powys); "Iesu na ad gamwaith" (Jesus, let there be no injustice, the Chair of Gwynedd).

This is the Grand Sword still in use today. The Gorsedd Ceremonies at the Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod will be held on Monday, August 6 (crowning ceremony), Wednesday, August 8 (Literary medal) and Friday, August 10 (Chairing ceremony).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

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"Yn y byd hwn, dim ond dau beth y gallwch chi fod yn sicr ohonynt sef marwolaeth a threthi"

Mae'r Comisiwn ar Ddatganoli yng Nghymru yn ystyried a ddylai Llywodraeth Cymru gael pwerau i fenthg arian ac i amrywio trethi.

Mae'r Comisiwn yn ymweld â'r Bont-faen a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr ac am glywed eich barn.

SESIWN GALW HEIBIO MEWN BORE COFFI

Neuadd y Dref, y Bont-faen

17 EBRILL 2012

10-11am

Dewch i siarad â'r Comisiynywyr a lleisio'ch barn mewn awyrgylch anffurfiol.

SESIWN CASGLU TYSTIOLAETH

yn yr Ystafell Fwrdd, Gwesty'r Heronston,
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

17 EBRILL 2012

2.30-3.30pm

Dewch i gyflwyno tystiolaeth ffurfiol gerbron y Comisiwn.

Dyma'ch cyfle i leisio'ch barn am drethi yng Nghymru

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FAMOUSLY ONCE SAID

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes"

The Commission on Devolution in Wales is looking at whether the Welsh Government should have tax varying and borrowing powers.

The Commission is coming to Cowbridge and Bridgend and wants to hear your views.

COFFEE MORNING DROP IN SESSION @

Cowbridge Town Hall, Cowbridge

17 APRIL 2012

10-11am

Come and speak to Commissioners and give your views in an informal setting.

PUBLIC EVIDENCE SESSION @

The Boardroom, Heronston Hotel,
Bridgend

17 APRIL 2012

2.30-3.30pm

Come and give formal evidence to the Commission.

This is your chance to have your say about taxes in Wales



IMPORTANT CEREMONY

Did you know you can find The GEM on Twitter? Follow us @gem_news

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

Tickets for the ceremonies which include field admission for that day are now on sale and available to buy from the Eisteddfod website: www.eisteddfod.org.uk or by phoning the ticket hotline on 0845 4090 800.

Welsh phrase of the week/Ymadrodd yr wythnos:

Dwi wedi bwyta gormod o wyau pasg (Dwee wade-ee bootia gormod oh oo-aye passg) which means 'I've eaten too many Easter eggs'.

Seremoniau yr Orsedd

Y SEREMONIAU yw rhai o ddigwyddiadau mwyaf cofiadwy unrhyw Eisteddfod. Mae golau'r Pafiliwn yn cael ei hylu ac mae ton o dawelwch yn disgyn dros y gynulleidfa wrth iddynt aros am alwad y Cynr Gwlad.

Ysgubir golau ar draws y pafiliwn cyn cyrraedd un man lle sefir y bardd buddugol ar ei d/thraed. Saif yr Archdderwydd ar y llwyfan yn ei regaliau aur gyda'r Orsedd tu cefn iddo yn barod i gyfarfarch y bardd ar y llwyfan.

I'r beirdd ei hunain dyma benllanw misoedd o aros ers postio'r gwaith erbyn y dyddiad cau gan ddefnyddio ffug enw yn hytrach nag enwau bob dydd. Cedwir enw'r bardd neu'r llenor buddugol yn gudd, gyda dim ond ychydig yn gwybod y gyfrinach. Mae'r seremoniau yma yn wfreiddiol - un o uchafbwyntiau celfyddyd Cymraeg.

Cymdeithas o feirdd, llenorion, cerddorion, artistiaid ac unigolion sydd wedi gwneud cyfraniad nodedig i Gymru, ei hiaith a'i diwylliant yw Gorsedd Beirdd Ynys Prydain. Gorsedd y Beirdd sy'n gyfrifol am basiantri Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru a hi sy'n trefnu a chynnal seremoniau lliwgar a dramatig y Cyhoeddi, defodau Cylch yr Orsedd, a seremoniau'r Coroni, y Fedal Ryddiaith a'r Cadeirio ar lwyfan y Brifwyl.

Efallai eich bod wedi darllen yn Y GEM yn ddiweddar ffrwyth dychymyg lolo Morgannwg oedd yr Orsedd. Ganwyd lolo, neu Edward Williams, i rhoi iddo ei enw enedigol ym Mhenn-Onn ger Llancarfan a magwyd ef ym mhentref Trefflemin ym Mro Morgannwg.

Cynhaliwyd yr Orsedd gyntaf yn 1792 ym Mryn y Briallu, Llundain ac ymddangosodd am y tro cyntaf yn yr Eisteddfod yn ystod Eisteddfod Caerfyrddin 1819 ac ers creu sefydliad yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn 1860/1 mae ei gysylltiad agos gyda'r Eisteddfod wedi parhau. Erbyn hyn mae'n anodd dychymyg Eisteddfod heb Gorsedd y Beirdd.

Pennaeth yr Orsedd yw'r Archdderwydd ac fe'i etholir am dymor o dair blynedd ac ef sydd yn gyfrifol am Seremoniau yr Orsedd yn ystod yr Eisteddfod ac hefyd yn ystod Seremoni y Cyhoeddi. Yr Archdderwydd presennol yw T James Jones.

Mae Seremoni y Cadeirio am gyfansoddi cedd mewn cynghanedd yn un o uchafbwyntiau unrhyw Eisteddfod. Cynhelir y Seremoni yma ar brynawn dydd Gwener yr Eisteddfod.

Mae'n seremoni hynafol iawn. Yr oedd yr arfer o gystadlu am gadair yn llys y Brenin eisoes yn hen yng nghyfnod Hywel Dda yn y ddegfed ganrif a phan gynhaliodd yr Arglwydd Rhys ei Eisteddfod yn Aberteifi yn 1176, cadair yr un oedd gwobrau'r prif fardd a'r prif gerddor. Yna, tua 1451, yn eisteddfod Caerfyrddin cadeiriau arian a enillwyd a thrachefn yn eisteddfodau Caerwys yn 1523 a 1567.

Wedi ail-sefydlu'r mudiaid eisteddfodol yn y Bala yn 1789 ennill y Gadair oedd uchelgaib pob bardd ond nid oedd seremoni orseddol ynghlwm wrth hyn eto. Yn Eisteddfod Daleithiol Dyfed/Dinefwr yng Nghaerfyrddin yn 1819 llwyddodd lolo Morgannwg i gysylltu'r mudiaid eisteddfodol â defod Gorsedd y Beirdd ac â chadeirio'r bardd buddugol.

Yn 1867 y penderfynwyd neilltuo'r Gadair ar gyfer awdl yn y mesurau caeth a chael Coron am bryddedd yn y mesur rhydd.

Mae Seremoni Cadeirio Eisteddfod Penbedw 1917 ymhlith un o'r rhai mwyaf cofiadwy a thrist. Hedd Wyn oedd enw barddol Ellis Humphrey Evans, bugail a bardd dawnsu o Drawsfynydd.

Yn dilyn llwyddiant mewn cystadlaethau lleol ac ail yng nghystadlaethau y gadair yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Aberystwyth fe drodd

syllw Ellis at Eisteddfod Penbedw 1917. Fel miloedd o fechgyn ifanc arall o Gymru fe ymunodd efo'r fyddin ac ysbydolwyd gan ei brofiadau i ysgrifennu'r gerdd ar y testun 'Yr Arwr'.

Lle disgrifiodd gwirionedd rhyfel i'r milwyr a'u teuluoedd adref.

Ym Mhenbedw, wrth i'r beirdd alw allan enw'r bardd buddugol mi oedd tawelwch yn y Pafiliwn oherwydd marwolaeth Hedd Wyn chwech wythnos yn gynt ar Orfennaf 31, 1917 yn ystod brwydr Pilckem Ridge yn Ypres.

Mae Seremoni y Coroni a gynhaliwyd ar brynawn Llun yr Eisteddfod yn seremoni yr un mor lliwgar. Yn ystod y Seremoni yma y perfformir y ddawns flodau am y tro cyntaf yn ystod yr Eisteddfod. Heb os dyma un o ddefodau mwyaf poblogaidd seremoniau Gorsedd y Beirdd.

Yn dilyn clyweliadau llynedd dewisiwyd 34 o ferched o ysgolion cynnadd ar draws y fro i gymryd rhan; gwisgant wisgoedd gwyrddion â blodau'r maes yn eu hadurno, a blodau yn goronau yn eu gwalltiau a chariant duswau o flodau.

Dawns i gyfleu casglu blodau'r maes yw hi a chyfunir Cyflwyno'r Flodeuged â hi trwy i ddwy o'r dawnsyr ychwanegu'u tuswau hwy at y Flodeuged ei hun.

Eto, defod gymharol ddiweddar yw hi. Yng Ngorsedd Gyhoeddi Machynlleth, 1936 y gwelwyd hi gyntaf a gellir ei phriodoli i ddychymyg y Cofiadur, Cynan ac athrawesau ysgolion cynradd y fro. Nid ymddangosodd y dawnsyr ar lwyfan y Brifwyl tan ddefod y Cadeirio yn Eisteddfod Ystradgynlais, 1954.

Chwaraeir rhan flaenllaw yn ystod Seremoniau yr Orsedd gan gyn - chwaraewr rygbi'r Scarlets a Chymru, Robin McBryde gan taw ef fydd yn cario cleddyf yr Orsedd.

Yr oedd cario cleddyf yn rhan o ddefodaeth Gorsedd gyntaf lolo Morgannwg yn 1792. Fel heddychw'r pwysleisiai lolo mai mewn heddwch yr ymgynullai beirdd Gorsedd Ynys Prydain a phan osodwyd cleddyf noeth ar Faen yr Orsedd cynorthwydd y beirdd oedd yn bresennol i wisgo'r wain amdano fel arwydd o Heddwch.

Defod ar wahân oedd

yr un lle gelwid allan am 'Heddwch' ar y dechrau ond yn raddol daethpwyd i'w chysylltu â defod y cleddyf.

Yn Eisteddfod Wrecsam, 1888, cyflwynodd Phillip Yorke o Blas Erddig gleddyf seremoniol a ddefnyddiwyd tan droad y ganrif.

Yna, yng Nghaerdydd, 1899, cynlluniodd yr Athro Hubert Herkomer Gleddyf Mawr ar gyfer Eglurodd symbolaeth y cynllun: crisal naturiol y carn yn cynrychioli cyfriniaeth; y tair llinell sanctaidd yn cynrychioli'r ymdrech gyntaf i ysgrifennu 'lehofo'; y ddraig - i'w gwarchod. Ar y wain roedd y cyswyneiriau: 'Y gwir

yn erbyn y byd' (cyswynair Gorsedd Beirdd Ynys Prydain); Duw a phob Daioni' (Cadair Morgannwg a Gwent); Calon wrth Galon' (Cadair Dyfed); A Laddo a Leddir (Cadair Powys); 'Iesu na ad gamwaith' (Cadair Gwynedd); Dyma'r Cleddyf Mawr a ddefnyddir heddiw.

Cynhelir Seremoniau yr Orsedd yn ystod Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg ar Ddydd Llun, Mercher a Gwener. Mae tocynnau ar gyfer y Sermoniau eisoes ar werth ac ar gael o wefan yr Eisteddfod www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu drwy ffonio'r linell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800.

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NEWS FROM YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

Three-day road trip made students feel proud of their Welsh heritage

THE year-10 Welsh class at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg came to school far more excited than usual this St David's Day, knowing that this year's festival would be something special, year-10 pupil ROBIN TAIT reports.

We were setting off on a three-day trip around Wales, organised by the Welsh department.

The aim was for us to gain a better understanding of the subjects we study during the course, but we also learnt a great deal about our heritage, and came back having had a fantastic time and feeling proud to be Welsh.

After a long bus journey through the mist, we arrived at our first stop – the coastal town of Aberaeron – for a little shopping, lunch and some rare sunshine.

Luckily for us the weather stayed warm throughout the rest of



ABOVE: Fun and games with the Stwnsh team.

our trip! Next up was the National Library in Aberystwyth where we enjoyed a 'behind the scenes' tour of the library and its vast storage areas.

We were privileged to view a few of the nation's historical treasures, including one of the first Welsh Bibles ever published, and the first map of Wales as a 'principality'.

Then, it was off to the Urdd resort, Glanllyn for a touching presentation on the drowned village – Capel Celyn – bingo, a film and sup-

per before bed.

There was even more to come the next day, which began at the Llanberis National Slate Museum.

First, we learned all about slate quarrying years ago, before being given a hands on demonstration on how to cleave and shape the slate.

It turned out that our teacher, Miss Jones, had quite a talent for this!

After a visit to the gift shop and lunch by a beautiful lake, we moved on to the Kate Roberts Heritage Centre, learning all about the way of life back in the author's time, as well as her personal history. Next was Gelert's Grave – the

memorial to a faithful dog from the Mabinogi tales, who came to a tragic end.

Finally we visited Llyn Celyn – the reservoir built upon Capel Celyn – and the memorial chapel where graves from the village chapel where moved before the drowning.

To finish off the night with a flourish, we attended the local eisteddfod – and even ended up winning first place with our group effort for the voice ensemble!

We said goodbye sadly to Glanllyn, our home for two nights, and were off to Bala for a spot of shopping.

The last two destinations – Llywelyn, the



The French Spelling Bee experts.

last Prince of Wales' memorial in Cilmeri and the Aberfan Children's memorial – were moving and quite emotional, and certainly a memorable end to our trip.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our teachers – Mr Davies and Miss Jones – for giving us such an amazing three days, and to Aled, the bus driver, for taking us everywhere and putting up with our terrible singing!

I think it's safe to say that you don't always have to go to the ends of the earth to have a good time....

French Spelling Bee

Congratulations go to Brenig Davies, Elin Alexander, Manon

WHAT'S ON in brief

'Good Things'
ON April 19, 20, 21 the Dinas Powys players present 'Good Things' by Liz Lochhead at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys at 7.30pm. For tickets, telephone 02920 512868.

Spring book sale
COWBRIDGE Library is holding a spring book sale on Saturday, April 21 from 10am - 4pm.

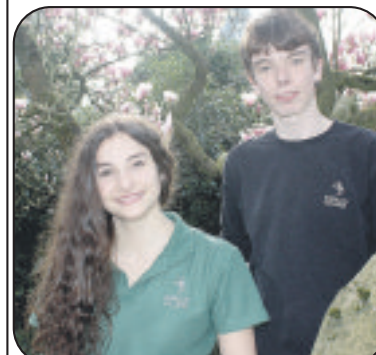
Spring fayre
AGE Concern held a successful spring fayre at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, to raise funds for the refurbishment of the shop.

Jane Hutt AM, opened the fayre and congratulated Age Concern on their dedicated and hard work.

A raffle was drawn by Alun Cairns MP. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

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Inspirational Homes and Gardens

Who wants to build what, and where in the Vale?

The Occupier – **20 White House, The Knap, Barry** – Remove semi-mature pine tree.
Mr Shires – **16 Maes Glas, Barry** – Crown raise to 4.5m removing secondary and pendulous branches only to form more compact upright crown to twin stemmed ash tree located in rear garden.

Mr J Shewring – **1 Elm Grove Lane, Dinas Powys** – Reduce eight field maple and crown lift sorbus.
M Sibert – **1 Church Avenue, Penarth** – Reduce entire crown by up to 4.5m, crown thin and reduce end-loading.
VJ Thomas and Son – **Pancross Farm, Llancarfan** – Siting of four mobile homes to accommodate agricultural workers.
Mr Brendan Boylan – **Woodland Rise, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys** – One storey extension with attic bedroom (Amendment to full planning permission 2012/00194/FUL).
Mrs Michelle Proctor – **1 Old Barry Road, Penarth** – Erection of acoustic perimeter fence.
Mr Gethin Walters – **15 Mountjoy Avenue, Penarth** – Single storey extension and dormer windows on rear and side elevations.
Mr C Williams – **15 Glyn y Gog, Rhose** – Single storey extension and conservatory.
Mr Ian Shumack – **3 Whittan Close, Rhose** – Replacement garage with workshop related to house at 3 Whittan Close. Change from flat to pitched roof (2011/01099/FUL).
Mr Mark Painter – **Ambleside, 2 St Athan Road, Cowbridge** – To make single storey extension into a two storey extension at rear of house.
Mr Michael Long – **Maendy Chapel, Maendy** – Amendments to planning application 2008/00335/FUL for conversion of Maendy Chapel to a single dwelling.
Mr and Mrs B and S Edwards – **7A Boverton Road (first floor offices), Llantwit Major** – Change of use of existing office accommodation into two self contained flats at first floor level.
Mr Peter Wilkinson – **142-144 Holton Road, Barry** – Removal of existing signage and installation of replacement, converting the current royal Bank of Scotland to Santander.
Mr Ray Thomas – **Sutton Newydd Farm, Sutton Road, Llandow** – construction of portal frame agricultural cattle building 36.59m (120ft) x

30.49m, (100ft) x 4.39m (12ft) to eaves).
Mr and Mrs Gadd – **14 Greenfield Avenue, Dinas Powys** – Proposed second storey rear extension and dormer.
Mr Ieuan Morris – **Highbank, Llanmihangel Road, Llanblethian** – Single storey extension incorporating kitchen and sitting area.
Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Old Hall, Community Centre, High Street, Cowbridge** – The proposal is to install an external radio antenna of the rear of the Old Hall to provide IT network connectivity.
Dr Simon Davies – **32 Tair Onen, Cowbridge** – Two storey side extension with habitable loft space and a single storey rear extension.
The Occupier – **34 Britway Road, Dinas Powys** – Fell small sycamore in group, pollard other sycamores, prune back heavily end loaded limbs in Cypress trees.
Enterprise Inns Plc – **Three Bells Inn, Coldbrook Road West, Cadroxton** – Ash trees to be felled.
Mr Alun Williams – **Church Farm Barns, Church Farm, Clemenstone** – Renewal of previously granted consent.
Mr Arwyn Prichard – **Vianshill Farm, St Nicholas** – Variation of Condition 2 of approved application 2008/01297/FUL to extend period of development/works.
Lloyds Banking Group – **1 Windsor Road, Penarth** – Repair and replace perished bathstone with new to the following areas: ballusters, high level cornice, curved cornice, due to falling masonry.
Gareth Shaw – **12 Lord Street, Penarth** – Loft conversion with roof dormers to front and rear elevations.
Mr Graham Cartwright – **The Croft, Llanmaes** – Alterations and extension to existing house.
Mr Steve Giblin – **4 Rhos Ddu, Penarth** – Two front apex dormers and one rear apex dormer.
Mr Ken Broad – **Adjacent 44 Pyke Street, Barry** – Construction of two linked dwellings at garage lock

up.
Mr Russell Evans – **Marlborough Farm Lodge, Crossways, Cowbridge** – One and two storey extensions, porches.
Mr John Mudford – **Alexandra Gardens Community Centre, Alexandra Crescent, Barry** – Installation of new building to replace condemned existing building.
Vale of Glamorgan Council – **The Pavilion, Cwrt y Felin, Wick** – New ramped access and disabled toilet facility.
Mrs Ruth Quinn – **Town Hall, Church Street, Llantwit Major** – Remove and replace existing flagpole. Install two new architectural flagpoles with internal halyard.
Mr Phillips – **72 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – Retention of one-bedroom self contained flat plus a steel balcony.
Ms R Waterhouse – **163 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Proposed rear dormer extension to existing attic conversion.
OCA UK Ltd – **21 Victoria Road, Penarth** – Fell one elder, one wisteria and three Lawson cypress trees.

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Inspirational Homes and Gardens

Encouraging our young people to get gardening!

A **HOST** of events are planned for the first Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) National Gardening Week, an initiative to encourage people to get growing.

Between April 16 and 22, community plant and seed swaps, gardening advice clinics, workshops

by **HANNAH STEPHENSON**

and garden parties are planned, along with input from gardening clubs, community groups and libraries.

There's also a big push for schools to become involved, with the RHS Show Cardiff (April 20-22) being the launch pad for the first Young School Gardener of the Year competition - a nationwide search to find the best young grower in the land.

'Get Kids Growing Day', an annual competition aimed at gardeners up to the age of 16, will be launched on April 20 and is a key initiative for the campaign week.

Divided into four age groups and aimed at the RHS campaign for school gardening, a teacher nominates a child by completing an online form by May 18.

The RHS then chooses the four best entrants from each age group, who receive digital cameras to make videos demonstrating why they're such exemplary gardeners. They must submit the video by July 5.

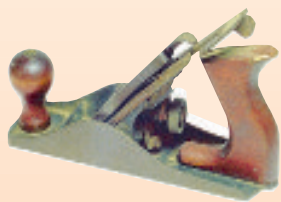
A winner of each age group will receive gardening tools and £500 in garden gift vouchers for their schools.

The overall winner, crowned 'Young School Gardener of the Year 2012', will in addition spend a day at a RHS garden of their choice, working with a RHS gardener and receive family tickets to either RHS Tatton Park Flower Show or RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show 2013.

Jacky Chave, RHS strategic schools manager, says: "Gardening in schools is a fantastic way of engaging young people in learning. Thanks to our campaign more than half of all primary school pupils in the country are gardening.

"If through this competition we discover the next Monty Don, Alan Titchmarsh or Chris Collins, who in turn will inspire their friends and classmates to get into gardening, then how fantastic."

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Snow White story is the fairest of them all!

IN this slightly more cynical and weary age we live, it seems that the fairytales that nursed us through our childhood need to be updated for modern audiences.

The likes of Red Riding Hood and Hansel and Gretel have, or will be, toughened up by Hollywood, while the tale of Snow White will be pulling double duty, with the Kristen Stewart-starring *Snow White and The Huntsman* due out later in the year, while *Mirror Mirror* hits cinemas now.

Starring Lily Collins as Snow, it follows her story as she is banished from the kingdom by her wicked stepmother (Julia Roberts), only to meet up with a band of seven dwarves who, along with the charming Prince Alcott (Armie Hammer), may be able to help her free her townspeople, and herself, from the clutches of the queen...

When thinking of fairytales you think of grand castles, gorgeous costumes, beautiful princesses and handsome princes; and certainly

Mirror Mirror doesn't scribble on any of those elements.

But rather than simply place a pantomime on the big screen director Tarsem Singh unleashes a volley of colour and visual inventiveness that makes *Mirror Mirror* a pleasing, if unsubstantial, distraction that makes for a entertaining piece of work.

Storytelling has never been Singh's forte, the arch visuals of the likes of *Immortals*, *The Cell* and *The Fall* looking gorgeous yet having very little in terms of storytelling drive.

Given the source material he's working from here, cleverly tweaked for an audience made all the more knowing by the likes of the Shrek franchise, he just about keeps the story flowing - but given that it is basic in the extreme then that is hardly the most glowing of references.

Instead the weight falls on the magical world he has created, a snowy wonderland that strikes the right balance of beauty and grittiness, throwing the characters into a hyper-stylised universe that, by Singh's standards, could be

SCREEN TALK



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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described as low-key. While the film looks gorgeous, Singh occasionally adds some beautifully stylised moments, a magical puppet attack on the dwarves hideout cleverly realised both in concept and execution, while the film has a glossy sheen that will certainly capture the eye.

Story-wise, Jason Keller and Melisa Wallack adapt the original story and add just the right level of nodding and winking, thankfully not reducing the film to pop culture references but instead playing on the conventions of the story.

The dialogue is sparky and witty, and if some characters are left a little too shapeless, it's more down to the necessity of the story rather than any shortcomings on the script.

The performances are solidly entertaining, Lily Collins' turn a little too bland, but she does manage a sparkle in the eye that, sadly, lays underdeveloped; while Armie Hammer's prince is given extra-depth by the actor's likeable game performance, skewering the dashing hero and happily playing the fool with great comedic effect.

Nathan Lane, as always, delivers a pleasing support turn, all witty asides and quips, while the dwarves manage to distinguish themselves individually while sharing a good chemistry.

The biggest pull of the film is watching

Julia Roberts sink her teeth into the villainous role of the evil queen, and the actress delivers a strong turn, mixing malevolence with humour.

Her queen is an out and out villain but not one you're too willing to boo and hiss at, given how good her turn is. If Roberts is relaxing her output, as it appears she is, then the promise of more turns as playful as this one is more than welcome.

As entertaining a film as *Mirror Mirror* is, there is little weight or substance to the film; instead it simply plays as a fairytale writ large, and while innocence seems a virtue long forgotten in the cinema, it's for that very reason that *Mirror Mirror* is the fairest of them all!

VERDICT - A satisfyingly lightweight fairytale, *Mirror Mirror* is a beautifully shot film that uses Tarsem Singh's visual ability while getting strong performances from Armie Hammer and Julia Roberts.

Shorn of too much cynicism, *Mirror Mirror* is pleasing and, though insubstantial, more than watchable. *Enjoyable*.
SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Shrek* (2001), *The Brothers Grimm* (2005)

Exploring eBay at Barry Computer Club

MOST people have thrown something away with the thought at the back of their mind that someone, somewhere, might like to have it - but it would be impossible to find that person - and Kevin S gave us a talk on how such thoughts led to the rise of internet auction house eBay.

In 1985 a computer programmer in California offered a broken laser pointer for sale as part of an auction he wanted to try out on his own website. He called it AuctionWeb.

To his surprise, someone wanted to buy it. He contacted the buyer to be sure that he knew it was broken and the buyer said yes and that he wanted it anyway. The internet has made it possible to find the person who wants what you do not.

It resulted in the launch of eBay in 1997, as transactions were running at 200,000 a month, having grown from 250,000 for the whole of 1996. It went international in 1999 and continued to grow.

In 2010, it sold \$62 billion (more than \$2,000 a second). This includes a passenger vehicle every two minutes; a motorcycle every six minutes and (once) a Gulfstream Jet for \$4.9

million in 2001. In 2011, it had more than 97 million members worldwide. There are other auction sites, but eBay is the biggest and best known.

Kevin then introduced the site proper and explained how to buy and sell effectively.

He displayed the opening page of the eBay site and showed how to register as a member, but explained that if you don't want to become a member immediately, it is quite okay to look around as a guest to get the feel of how it all works.

If you want to bid on an item, or to put an item on watch to keep track of it, then you would have to sign up. This requires your name, address and email address, after which you choose a username and your password. So far, there is nothing to pay.

Once registered, you are invited to start selling or browsing the auction categories. Selling involves a charge for the eBay service, depending

on the values involved and how much information you want to include, such as additional photographs.

You will know the cost before you commit to the auction. If you browse and wish to bid for something, you may do so.

Kevin offered hints and tips on how to use the site to the best advantage and fielded a range of questions. This included advice on how to describe what you are selling and to find out the correct postage costs to show the buyer.

You are expected to sign up for Paypal in due course. This is a system to ensure that the money involved changes hands securely.

All this was accompanied by a live visit to the site, together with a demonstration of how it all works.

Feedback from users is used to identify the most reliable people.

For more information call 029 20309579.

HOWARD DESMOND

College steps up overseas partnerships



Professor Masaaki Yanagida, from the Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, visited CAVC as the WJEC has chosen the college as a centre of excellent Welsh Baccalaureate practice.

CARDIFF and Vale College, has hosted delegations from China, Japan and Libya - as part of its commitment to foster international partnerships.

March saw hospitality and catering students from a French Lycee serve a presentation lunch at the college's Vale training restaurant; the Glamorgan suite.

CAVC's international arm, Cardiff College International, has an agreement with the Beijing Space Study Service which links UK institutions with schools and colleges across China.

The delegation met with the Principal, two vice principals, the college's international business development manager, Janine Bennett, and head of adult and sixth form studies, Dr Barbara Prosser.

"We are looking to recruit students who will finish their education in China then come to the college to progress,"

Janine said. "Chinese students will be able to take advantage of the provision we offer including the English language courses, the international foundation programme and A Levels with a view to progressing on to higher education."

The collaboration could also include teacher exchanges and a summer learning programme. The agreement will now go to the relevant Chinese local government department for formal approval.

CAVC also welcomed Professor Masaaki Yanagida from the Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, in a visit organised by the WJEC.

He came to the college as the WJEC has selected it as a centre of excellent Welsh Baccalaureate practice.

CAVC also hosted a delegation from the new Libyan Government that had come to learn how Welsh colleges are delivering on vocational training and engaging with employers.

Playgroup fayre and an Easter bonnet parade!



Easter bonnet winners, Jack and Holly.

KIDDIEWINKLES Playgroup were kept very busy before the Easter holidays, raising funds for new storage equipment at the Easter fayre on Tuesday, March 27.

The fayre was a huge success under Karen Jones (acting playgroup leader) and her team of helpers.

"We had plenty of games, face painting, toys and tombola along with a cake stall for everyone to enjoy. We raised a fabulous £277 and would like to say a very public thank you to

all the children, parents, church members and staff who always support our fundraising efforts!" a spokesperson said.

"In the lead-up to the end of term, we also asked the children and their parents to make an Easter bonnet as part of our topic. All the bonnets were brilliant and we would like to congratulate everyone on their efforts."

"We held a little Easter parade at the end of playgroup on March 28 to show off our creations. We had two winners, Jack Pitcher aged four, and Holly Hunter, aged three."

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Out and About with The GEM

RHS SHOW IS BACK!



THE RHS Show Cardiff returns to the parklands of Cardiff Castle on April 20-22

(www.rhs.org.uk/cardiff) and the schools wheelbarrow competition is more popular than ever, with 60 colourful, imaginative entries.

This year's theme is Olympic based and is entitled 'Sports and Shoots'. It brings together the creative and colourful efforts of local youngsters, thanks to ongoing support from Legal & General.

Visitors are invited to select their favourite wheelbarrow, based on visual impact, originality and colour, with gardening vouchers presented to the winning schools for first (£100), second (£75) and third (£50).

"The Cardiff show is the first in the season of RHS outdoor shows, and this year rounds off national Gardening Week, as

the RHS bid to get the nation growing. The event will attract some 25,000 visitors and feature beautiful blooms from nurseries across the country, show gardens from leading Welsh talent, and advice and inspiration for the gardening season ahead," said spokesman Tim Powell.

The RHS Show Cardiff includes: *Show gardens from Wales' leading designers; Launch of the Young School Gardener of the Year, part of the first National Gardening Week; Spring Allotment and Grow Your Own advice; Talks, demonstrations and expert advice from the RHS; and floral marquees with over 50 floral exhibitors plant plaza.*

There are also nature trails and street entertainers with live music on the bandstand.

Telephone 0844 5810810 for further details.

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Monday
16th April 10-11am

Two sessions 9.30-11.30am and 12.30-2.30pm
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For further information please contact Mr Phil Williams
02920 880798
0779 915 5463
email: philip.williams56@btinternet.com

What's on and where in your local area

Lib-Dem advice

WELSH Lib-Dem AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding three surgeries on Friday, April 13 in Pencoed Library from 2pm to 3pm and Porthcawl Library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. No

appointment is necessary.

Ladies choir
BARRY Ladies Choir are holding a concert at Crossway Methodist Church on Monday, April 16 at 2pm.

Tickets are £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

Star's donations to Dogs Trust raises pounds for hounds

ON Saturday, March 31, staff at Dogs Trust Cowbridge's charity shop were greeted by queues of people eagerly waiting to buy their piece of John Barrowman.

The star of stage and screen very generously donated his own clothes and personal belongings to the shop, and so far more than £2,000 has been raised, with more still to come in.

Rhia Stankovic-Jones, the Dogs Trust Cowbridge shop manager said: "We were amazed by the extent of John's donation to the shop and are now absolutely delighted with the support his fans have shown!"

"It has really translated into sales! We know

he has a huge worldwide fan base but it seems Cowbridge has lots of his supporters too!"

"Fans were queuing at the door to get a piece of the action - from suits he's worn on TV to household goods."

"Also, for people who were unable to get to the shop on Saturday we've put a number of items on our Ebay site which are still taking bids."

She added that one customer travelled all the way from Nottingham and spent approximately £600 in one hour on items including shirts and a Ralph Lauren hoodie!

To find out more about Dogs Trust visit www.dogstrust.org.uk

X Factor star headlines charity concert

THE 2008 X Factor finalist **Daniel Evans** will perform at a charity concert in aid of Bridgend Disabled FC on April 15 in the Phoenix United Reform Chapel, Bridgend.

The event starts at 3pm and will also include Approaching Danger, Colours of One and DanceManiax. There will be a raffle and an auction. Tickets

are £10 adults, £5 under-16 and £20 for families. Call Kelly Hall (07817929549) or purchase at the door.

All money raised from this event will help send a team from Bridgend Disabled FC to Spain in June to play in the Catalan Cup.

This competition is being run by Spain Sportive and for the first time they are including a disabled section. Bridgend is the only Welsh team taking part.

Peter Francis
The Auctioneers in Wales

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The concert is being held as a fundraising event for Age Concern Senior Health Shop and Friends and Neighbours.

Tickets available from Senior Health Shop or contact 01446 732385 or from Gay Fifiedon at 400044.

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, April 17 at 1.30pm, 'Spring scenery' walk, starting at Dinas Powys Common by Twyn Cyn.

April 18:
10.30am, the Nordic walking taster led by Howell Isaac (Age Cymru) starts at Cosmeston Country Park visitor centre (over-50s only).

1.45pm, the coffee shop strollers meet at Bridge Cafe, The Knap.

2pm, 'Castle and Coffin Stiles', starting at the Red Fox, Penllyn.

Visit
www.valeways.org.uk for details.

Eisteddfod fundraisers

THE following fundraising events are being organised in support of the National Eisteddfod at

Llandow:

April 18 at 7pm:
Curry evening organised by Quest Hair Salon at Jaipur Indian Restaurant, East Street, Llantwit Major. Choice of menu, £16; information and tickets from Quest on 01446 793563.

April 20 at 8.30pm:

'Half Tidy' at Sportsman's Rest, Peterston-super-Ely, light musical entertainment.

April 28 at 7pm:

'Twmpath' with 'Thingumijigs'. Put on your dancing shoes and join caller Ceri Platts and Thingumijigs Ceilidh band at Llantonian Hall, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major.

Adults £4, children £2, family £10. Tickets from Eleanor (01446 751950).

Charity coffee

A CHARITY coffee morning will be held in the Lesser Hall, All Saints Church, Victoria Square, Penarth on April 19 at 10.30am-12 noon.

Entry 50p, to include tea or coffee. Bargains in cakes, books, plants, crafts.

Charity gala concert

A gala concert will be held at 7pm on May 13 in St David's Hall, Cardiff, featuring popular songs from stage shows - to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation Cymru's Mending Broken Hearts Appeal.

Taking part are prin-

cipal performers from the West End, including Lucie Jones (X Factor and Les Miserables), Chris Jacobsen (Jean Val Jean in Les Miserables, who shared the role with John Owen Jones) Kieran Brown (Wicked) and X Factor's James Williams, with a professional orchestra and Cardiff choir City Voices.

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GLAMORGAN PONY CLUB HOSTS THE PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AWARDS



GLAMORGAN Pony Club recently held its annual awards and AGM at Cowbridge Rugby Club.

Our DC, Annie Whitehouse, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our President Mike Gibbon MFH, who compered the evening.

This year we welcomed back local trainer Tim Vaughan. He began by talking about how he first became involved in Pony Club and represented them at some of the biggest competitions in Britain.

We were very grateful that Tim gave us his valuable time to come and present our certificates and Cups.

Glamorgan Pony Club had another successful year competing at the various disciplines around the south Wales area and in England.

At the Horse and Pony Care Competition, held at the Pontcanna Riding school, we had three teams, all of whom were competing for the first time.

They were: Caitlin Jones, Izzy Kennedy, Genevieve Kirk, Evie Vaughan Jones, Chloe Watkins, Nina Revera, Nonni Medlicott, Ellie Thorne and Victoria Shaw.

The area eventing was held at Sapay in Worcestershire and we had two teams: novice: Ellie Dix, Alice Pembridge, Bethany Jarvis, Evie Vaughan Jones; both Ellie and Evie were placed sixth as individuals.

Pre-novice: Zoe Hughes, Sean Way, Genevieve Kirk, Izzy

Kennedy; Zoe was individually fourth and the team were also fourth.

The area tetrathlon was held in July with one team and one individual taking part: minis: Genevieve Kirk, Sanant Callow, Victoria Shaw; team fifth overall, and Genevieve fourth individually. Juniors: Ela Callow in sixth placed team of three.

Show jumping was held at Chepstow Racecourse and we had two teams in the novice competition: Ellie Dix, Ellie Thorne, Evie Vaughan Jones, Zoe Hughes.

The team came third overall with Zoe placed third as an individual and qualified for the National Championships.

There was also a 'tack and turnout' competition held for the teams, with this team finishing first.

Our other novice team was made up of Alice Pembridge, Sean Way and Genevieve Kirk.

In area dressage, we entered two novice teams and one individual in the open: Evie Vaughan Jones, Zoe Hughes and Nonni Medlicott.

This team finished third overall, with individual places for Zoe in second, Evie third and Nonni ninth. Zoe qualified for the National Championships.

Our other team was Ellie Dix, Alice Pembridge, Sean Way; both Ellie and Evie were placed sixth as individuals.

Emma Lockwood was placed first as an individual and qualified

for the National Championships.

We are very proud of Zoe Hughes who represented Glamorgan Pony Club at the novice championships at both dressage and show jumping. Also to Emma Lockwood for representing the club at the open dressage Championships, finishing 11th; both girls did us proud.

Within the structure of Pony Club there are various tests that can be taken to improve the knowledge and safety of our members.

The following passed their Riding and Road Safety: Maisie Beech, Evie Vaughan Jones, Nina Revera, Genevieve Kirk, Chloe Watkins and those passing their BHS Riding and Road Safety were Nina Revera, Genevieve Kirk, Ela Callow and Chloe Watkins.

Two of our members passed the difficult B test this year; Bethan Allman and Bethany Jarvis.

Just before the presentation of Cups Fiona



Martyn, on behalf of Glamorgan Hunt, presented Ellie Dix with the junior hunting cup for her endeavours during the season.

We then went onto present the Cups for the year: 12 and under attendance went to Josie Dix, with runner-up Emily Reynolds; in joint third were

Branwen Clay, Beth Crockford and Owen John.

The most improved rider went to Branwen Clay for the under-12s and Genevieve Kirk for the older members.

The hunter trial cup went to Izzy Kennedy on Lucy, tack and turn out for the year went to Maisie Beech, while the



rider who represented Pony Club the most times was Zoe Hughes.

We cater for all abilities and ages, so if you would like to join us please come along on any term time Wednesday evening at Spring Meadows, Llandow, from 5.30pm-9.15pm.

JJ





National Pet Month 2012 7th April to 7th May



NATIONAL PET MONTH PROMOTES RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS



Tommy Trousers.

FROM now until May 7, people are invited to be a part of National Pet Month.

Thousands of owners throughout the UK are celebrating the special affinity they have with their pets, highlighting responsible ownership and raising money for the charity in fun-filled events.

National Pet Month also wants to raise awareness of the value

of working and companion animals.

True animal lovers are keen to see their pets enjoy happy lives, and pet month is an opportunity to support a 'pet partnership' across the nation.

A spokeswoman explained: "National Pet Month is a registered charity, which brings together animal welfare charities, professional bodies, pet businesses, schools, youth groups and pet lovers, with the common goal of improving the welfare of pets."

"The trustees are National Office of Animal Health (NOAH), Pet Food Manufacturers' Association (PFMA) and Pet Care Trust (PCT)."

"So how can you

help? First of all, you can become a supporter. This will keep you up-to-date with our activities and you will get a free events pack."

Anyone wanting to find out more about running events for National Pet Month can also check out the details explaining how to put on an event. For that, please go to www.nationalpet-month.org.uk.

As you can see from these pictures of GEM staff members' pets, an animal can play an important part in your life!



Walter and Gracie.



Rex.

Happy 18th birthday, Oscar!



Grey.



Cymba.

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Left to right: Chelsea Wetherick, Kathryn Johnston, Alison Moya, Kim Mills and Aimee Bannister.

CARE 4 PETS is an established business offering a variety of pet care services, including home boarding for dogs, visits for cats and small animals, dog walking and house sitting.

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Tapscoot House	38	Silver +	02/4/12
Vere Street	Withdrawn		

NEW DEVELOPMENT AT GOLWG Y COED, PENCOEDTRE LANE, BARRY

Wales & West Housing Association, in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Taylor Wimpey, are proud to announce our exciting new development of 20 homes which will be available for affordable rent from August 2012.

These high quality, energy efficient new homes at Golwg y Coed, Pencoedtre Lane, will be ideally located for local schools and convenient transport links. Golwg y Coed will comprise 20 houses: 10 x two bedroom, 8 x three bedroom and 2 x four bedroom, with affordable rents starting from approximately £97.00 per week.

In letting these new properties, priority will be given to HOMES4U members, who have a local connection with Barry.

Expressions of interest are now invited from HOMES4U members with the deadline for receipt being

Friday 20th April 2012. No expressions of interest will be accepted after the closing date of the advert.



You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.



BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON

Pencoed RFC triumph over league leaders

P E N C O E D reserved their best performance of the season for the arrival of the league leaders Seven Sisters.

With home confidence high after amassing 130 points in their previous two matches the Pencoed camp realized this was to be a far sterner test.

With firm underfoot conditions, Pencoed were at their best, and they once again produced superb attacking rugby.

Home full back Glen Hiscocks continued his rich vein of form finishing off an attack in the opening minutes to score; Marc Davies converted.

Loose head prop Lee Roberts then opened the visitors' account with a try in the corner, before Davies slotted a 35 metre penalty goal for Pencoed to lead 10-5.

Pencoed second row

James Murphy then saved an almost certain score with a fine cover tackle on the visitors' left wing.

Mike Smith kicked a penalty for Seven and a converted try from Anthony Llewellyn saw them lead 10-15.

A clever move from the Pencoed midfield involving outside half Davies and centre Lloyd Ryland set Hiscocks away to crash over wide out.

Pencoed then took a lead they were not to lose, a slashing break through the middle from Ryland and good support play put Hiscocks in for his try hat trick, Davies converted.

Prior to the interval Seven Sisters hit back with No 8 Alyn Jones driving across, and Pencoed led at the break 22-20.

Play continued to and fro in the second half before a searing break from Hiscocks in the visitors' 22 put wing

Liam Halse over.

Seven returned to the attack and following sustained pressure in the home 22 their pack drove over wide out to bring the scoreline to 27-25.

This match went right down to the wire, the visitors' left wing putting a foot in touch in the act of scoring in the final seconds.

Pencoed's all round attacking game saw them run out deserved 27-25 winners, with Glen Hiscocks chosen as the Coed-y-Mwstwr man of the match.

On Saturday Pencoed play their final match of the season at Maesteg Harlequins.

In a match curtailed by injury to the match official, the Pencoed 2nd XV beat Brackla 26-10.

Pencoed try scorers were Dean Henson, Mark Evans, Aaron Songhurst, and a penalty try, Tom Davies adding three conversions.

TR



The flying Glen Hiscocks was a try scorer and man of match!
PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK



Lloyd Ryland takes a heavy tackle.

John entertains at Pyle and Kenfig GC



JOHN Devereux was a fearless crash-ball centre who played rugby union for Bridgend, Wales and the British Lions and gained his first cap for Wales at the very young age of 19 years.

He scored tries against the mighty All Blacks, Samoa, Canada, Romania, and his favourite against England.

However, back then rugby union was an amateur sport which did not pay the mortgage and feed the family. Thus he was lured away to rugby league, in which sport he played for Widnes, Wales and Great Britain.

John returned to rugby union when it became professional, playing again for his old team at Bridgend before finishing his playing career at the illustrious Maesteg.

His stories on the

night enthralled the members and left them wishing there was time for more.

His talk ended with a question and answer session in which he gave deep insights into various aspects of rugby at the highest level, but he refused to be drawn on what he considered to be "gossip".

Also in the photograph, with club captain Tony Price, is P&K member, Ian Hall, himself a former Welsh rugby union international, having played for Wales no fewer than 11 times.

His club rugby was played for South Wales Police and Aberavon; he also played for the Barbarians on four occasions.

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JM

Good performances from Ath under-11s

Bridgend Ath v Mumbles

THE Ath played two home games this week. Mumbles were first up and got the game under way.

Some early possession saw the Ath create some good chances. Great handling from the Ath allowed Sion Vigus the space to score the first try of the day. Connor Fabian converted to make it 7-0. From the kick-off the ball eventually found its way to Louis King who crashed over to score a quick second. Connor Fabian converted to make it 14-0.

Mumbles responded well and broke free from the halfway line to score. The try was converted to make it 14-7.

The Ath continued to play some fluid rugby

and another good handling move saw Thomas Reed score in the corner. Connor Fabian converted to make the final score: **Bridgend Ath 42 Mumbles 14.**

Bridgend Ath v South Gower
The Ath kicked off and came out on top in the early exchanges when Thomas Anthony charged down a clearance and scored from close range. Connor Fabian converted to make it 7-0.

Both teams put together some good moves but it was the Ath who managed to extend their lead through Sam Veasey after he dived over to score from close range. Connor Fabian converted, making it 14-0.

The final try of the match was scored by Sion Vigus after another

great move from the Ath released him. Connor Fabian converted to make the final score: **Bridgend Ath 42 Mumbles 14.**

Bridgend Ath v South Gower
The Ath kicked off and came out on top in the early exchanges when Thomas Anthony charged down a clearance and scored from close range. Connor Fabian converted to make it 7-0.

Both teams put together some good moves but it was the Ath who managed to extend their lead through Sam Veasey after he dived over to score from close range. Connor Fabian converted, making it 14-0.

South Gower got themselves back into the game before the break after running from deep to score. The conversion was missed, making it 14-5 at the break.

The visitors kicked off the second half and put some early pressure on the Ath line. Some great tackles were unable to prevent South Gower from going over the line after another break away. Once again the conversion was missed, making it 14-10 to the Ath.

The home side managed to push upfield with a series of good moves but South Gower managed to steal the ball from inside their own half and run downfield to score. The conversion was kicked to make the final score: **Bridgend Ath 14 South Gower 17.**

Team: Thomas Anthony (capt), Jack Obbard, Gwilym John, Ffion Revell, Teo Fillis, Kasari Mehta, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Louis King, Jamie Marshall, Daffydd Beech, Thomas Reed, Connor Fabian, Taine Waite, Brandyn Fooks, William Goodall, Charles Creffield, Josh Tidy, Jack Mustoe, James Hermoile.

Ath unlucky in defeat

CARMARTHEN Under-11s BRIDGEND ATH Under11s 21 7

THE Ath had an away game against Carmarthen.

The home team got the game started and the Ath showed some good ball handling early on.

Despite the good start from the Ath it was the hosts who got the first points on the board after stealing the ball well in their own half and running to the corner to score. The try was converted to make it 7-0.

The Ath bounced back well and mounted a period of good pressure onto the Carmarthen defence and were rewarded with a well-taken try from winger Megan Webb after some good handling set her free to score. Conner Fabian converted to level the score at 7-7.

The Ath continued to press but another stolen ball allowed Carmarthen to score a converted try making it 14-7 to the hosts.

Carmarthen looked to extend their lead before the break and

a kick down field from the Ath fell kindly to them and they managed to score in the corner. The conversion was kicked to make it 21-7 at the break.

The second half saw the Ath start strongly. They put together some good moves but were unable to score due to some good defending from Carmarthen.

The away side pressed right until the end and thought they had scored just before the final whistle only for it to be disallowed for an infringement. The final score: **Bridgend Ath 7 Carmarthen 21.**

Team: Thomas Anthony (Capt), Gwilym John, Ffion Revell, Teo Fillis, Kasari Mehta, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Louis King, Jamie Marshall, Daffydd Beech, Thomas Reed, Connor Fabian, Taine Waite, Brandyn Fooks, William Goodall, Charles Creffield, Josh Tidy, Jack Mustoe, James Hermoile.

Devils star seeking world championships glory

A LOCAL ice-hockey star, who works at a Bridgend opticians, has won a place on Great Britain's world championship preliminary team.

21-year-old Ben Davies, from Cardiff, made his way up through the Cardiff Devils junior system as a promising forward and has now been shortlisted in the preliminary senior squad list for the world championships. The squad is made up of 35 of Great Britain's most talented players.

Ben, who has played professionally with the Devils for three seasons, already has experience playing for Great Britain under-16 and under-18 squads and has travelled extensively around Europe to represent his country. He combines playing for his team with his work for Devils' sponsor Specsavers on Adare Street.



Ben Davies

Athletic under-15s come out on top

IN a fiercely contested local derby between Bridgend Sports and Bridgend Athletic under-15s it was the Ath who came out on top, winning 24-23.

The game started at a frantic pace and the contact area was very competitive with both sets of forwards competing for the ball, but despite total dominance at the scrum and lineout, it was the Ath who on a number of occasions were deemed to be infringing and it was only a matter of time before the Sports had kickable chances.

Outside half Josh Bogue expertly converted two such opportunities to give the sports an early 6-0 lead.

The Ath then gifted the Sports a try when they failed to deal with an up and under.

As is often the case, the bounce of the rugby ball caused confusion and it was good follow-up play by Lewis Obbard who picked up the loose ball and run in from 25 yards.

The Sports went further ahead when good back play in midfield eventually created an overlap for Alex Stanton to score in the corner.

At this stage with the Sports leading 16-0, the Ath needed to take a grip of the game. They managed to gain good field position and it led to Sam Matthews taking the ball on the burst and breaking countless tackles before powering over the try line, taking half

the Sports' pack with him to score.

The Ath were now back in the game and started to play some rugby, but again they were undone by an up and under that they failed to deal with which eventually led again to the Sports creating an overlap for wing Owen James to score.

The try was converted from wide out by Josh Bogue making sorry reading for the Ath boys at the half time, the score 23-5 to the Sports.

With a mountain to climb and after some honest talk at the half time break, the Ath came out in a determined mood and Craig Lewis who had just come onto the field after a long injury lay off set the tone with a crunching tackle in the first minute.

This lifted the Ath boys and eventually led to an Ath try with Tom Pritchard taking a great line through the centre and scoring under the posts. This was converted by Harrison Evans.

The Ath were now in complete control and their dominance at scrum time was beginning to tell. There were a number of turnovers against the head and the Sports had no answer to runs from No. 8 Sam Matthews.

However, they fell for the sucker punch when expecting another pick and go from the base, scrum half Tom McArdle went blind and fed his full back Ben Jones who glided past several defenders to score. Again this was converted by Harrison Evans.

With the Ath dominating possession and territory throughout the second half, Craig Lewis tidied up some loose play and ran blind. He broke a number of would-be tackles and showed great determination to score in the corner.

This was a fantastic comeback by the Ath boys and they showed great determination, focus and team spirit to turn around what was a uphill task after yielding so many penalties.

TB

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2012 Beryl of The Parc, Ewenny, Bridgend. Devoted
wife of the late Glyn. Much loved mother of Felicity,
Angela, Primrose, Penny and Louise. Adored granny
to her seven grandchildren.
Funeral Service on Friday, April 13th at St Mary's Church,
Nolton, Bridgend at 12.30pm followed by cremation at
Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm.
Family flowers only; donations in lieu if desired may be made
to Y Bwthyn Newydd, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend c/o
Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn
Road, Pencoed, CF35 6SB, telephone 01656 860545/email:
contact@melandronwatkinsfuneralservices.co.uk.

CLOSE
(née Hewitt) **Mary Maureen**
Peacefully on 1st April, at Llandough Hospital with
all her family gathered around after a short illness
Mary Maureen aged 80 years of Barry. Dearly loved
wife of Arnold, mother to Michael, David and
Jacqueline, grandmother and great-grandmother.
Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone
Road, Barry until the service in the chapel on Wednesday,
18th April 2012 at 2.00pm followed by a committal service in
the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East,
Barry at 3.00pm.
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Alzheimer's Society via A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Directors.

TAYLOR
Gayle Elizabeth
Suddenly on April 1st at Princess of Wales
Hospital, Bridgend, Gayle of St Athan.
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Tom and David, will be sadly missed by all
her family and friends. Resting at the Private
Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon.
Funeral Monday, April 16th, service and cremation
12 noon at The Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium,
Barry. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

Jimmy Parsons of Llantwit Major
Thomas James Parsons, Jnr.
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Thank You

Elizabeth Thomas
(Liz - District Nurse)
would like to thank everyone
who helped organise and attend
her retirement party on
31st March, 2012.
Special thanks to all GPs and staff
at Eryl Surgery, the 'A' team of
district nurses in Llantwit Major and
Cowbridge, who are a credit to the
nursing profession; and to Maria for
the superb buffet.
Thanks for all cards, flowers and gifts,
which I will treasure.
Best wishes to all
patients and their
families who I have
been so privileged to
care for in the
past 20 years.
God bless you all.

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Club says farewell to Sensei Richard

BARRY Kyokushin Karate Club has been run and managed by Sensei Richard Males for over three decades.

Now, due to an accumulation of health issues and with great sadness, Sensei Richard has retired as chief instructor of the Barry club, giving rise to Senpai Phill Sedgmond, one of Sensei Richard's longest-serving students.

Sensei Richard said: "I have had a rollercoaster ride with Barry Kyokushin, seeing the great achievements by its members and delivering the message and spirit of Kyokushin Karate."

"I wish Senpai Phill the best of luck and I know that he will take Barry Kyokushin on to greater things."

Over the past 34 years Sensei Richard has represented Wales seven times both nationally and internationally in full contact tournaments.

In his younger days, Sensei Richard achieved second place twice in the Welsh Open full Contact Championships and took part in four waterfall training camps.

Sensei Richard and his club have raised over £7,000 for local charities.

Senpai Phill commented: "I'm really looking forward to taking on the Barry club. Filling the shoes of Sensei Richard is a mammoth task, but I have trained under Sensei Richard for over 15 years and I understand everything that he was trying to do."



ABOVE: Sensei Richard with Senpai Phill.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Local garage makes top 100!

THOUSANDS of motorists voted in Havoline's 'Garage of the Year' competition and, from an entry field of around 7,000 garages, Bayside Garage on Dumballs Road, Cardiff, has been voted in the top 100.

Andrew Littlejohn of Bayside Garage was proud the company had been named as one of the UK's most trusted garages.

"This is fantastic news for us because it is recognition by the

people that matter most – our customers.

"Motorists across the UK would be well-advised to look at the Garage of the Year results and use the online Motor Codes garage finder to seek out garages that provide a first-rate customer service."

Chris Mason, the managing director at Motor Codes, said: "We want people to be able to choose where to trust their car with confidence and what better way to make people aware of consistently good businesses than letting customers shout about the good guys?"

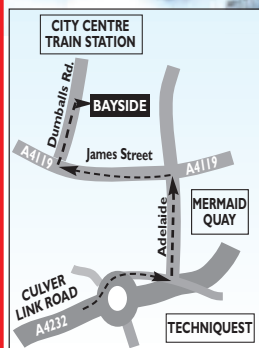
Motor Codes has subscribers across the whole of the UK, ranging from small independent workshops to the largest main dealers, and consumers are able to search from almost 7,000 Motor Codes garages using an online garage finder at: www.motorcodes.co.uk.

Thousands have voted in the campaign to highlight those car service centres that provide dependable service and the short-lists can be found online at: www.garageoftheyear.co.uk, where customers of the top 100 can continue voting to help select the regional winners. Voting closes on April 22.

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BADMINTON JOY FOR STANWELL!

A team of girls from Stanwell School in Penarth is celebrating after winning a national badminton competition organised in partnership by the innovative 5x60 scheme and Badminton Wales.

After storming their way through county and regional rounds of the competition, the girls took on schools from across Wales in a series of singles and doubles matches in Newtown, with the team of four – Megan Lim, Grace Samuel, Sophie Eggerstrom and Tatum Nurse – emerging victorious.

It was nearly a double success for the Vale, as a team from Cowbridge Comprehensive School were narrowly defeated



The victorious Stanwell school team.

into the runners-up spot in the boys' competition. The team – Sam Stewart, Matthew Reynolds, Josh Evans and Finn Murphy – all played superbly well and lost their final deciding match by a dramatic 15-

14 scoreline against Ysgol Friars from Bangor.

The competition featured year-7 and 8 pupils whose talents were unearthed during lunchtime and after-school sports sessions

run by the 5x60 scheme. For further details about the 5x60 scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan please go online to the following website at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/5x60.

Barry Seconds are well beaten by Pontyclun

BARRY Seconds looked to put their recent disappointing string of results behind them with a tough away trip to Pontyclun on a cold spring afternoon.

The opening omens were not good, as Joel Williams went off with a blood injury almost seconds into the contest, with Chow his temporary replacement.

Fortunately, Williams was able to carry on at his new position of fly-half, as he answered his critics by moving the ball out to his centres quickly.

With one such move Ethan Dix, himself another late call-up, broke the Pontyclun line with a strong run.

The ball was quickly recycled to Adam Lee, who ran a good line from full-back, and he grounded the first score. He was, however, unsuccessful with the conversion.

The Barry scrum was proving dominant, as the power of Lundy, Bowditch and Elsworth proved too much for the home side.

An infringement at the set piece by Pontyclun gave Lee a penalty opportunity to extend the lead, which he duly accepted.

Against the run of play, however, the home side got back into the game with a converted try, taking advantage of Lee Jones' time in the blood bin to make the score 7-8.

Barry came back strongly, with Lee's boot giving them territory at every opportunity. The debutants Scott and Vidal were destructive at the breakdown, emerging frequently with turnover ball which the backs then utilised.

There was also a marked improvement in the ball-carrying depart-

ment, with the heavy forwards punching holes frequently in the home defence.

Notable mentions go to Elsworth, Rolfe, and particularly Vidal. There was also more cohesion with the back division, with Dix and Tom Poole especially effective.

Lee further extended the Barry lead with another well-struck penalty, before the away side's late flurry in the half saw them stopped short of the line again, this time via McCann, whilst Lee pulled another attempt at three points wide.

With the elements against them in the second half, it was a very

different story for the away side. Pontyclun brought on replacements who made impact, especially with the momentum behind them.

They managed to gain the upper hand in the tight, despite the best efforts of Jones, Vidal, Hitchcock and invariably Scott, who seemed everywhere.

With constant pressure applied to the Barry line, the home side finally scored to go into the lead.

Pontyclun further increased their advantage when Barry were briefly down to 14 men as Scott received treatment, and with that the away side found themselves two

scores down.

In a desperate attempt the green-and-whites pushed forward, but all too often the wrong option was taken and the chance was gone.

Instead, the home side had the last try to give the scoreline an unbalanced 26-11 look at the final whistle.

Team: Lee; Poole, Dix, Hewitson, Evans; McCann, Williams; Lundy, Bowditch, Elsworth; Vidal, Tobin; Jones, Scott, Rolfe (c). Subs used: Houdley, Hitchcock, Chow.

Man-of-the-match: Scott.

KC

VALE WIN THROUGH TO 'THOMAS' FINAL

The Vale District welcomed Eryri Schools District to their home ground to compete in the semi-final of the DC Thomas Cup.

The Vale started well, receiving from the kick-off and driving down the centre of the field with some excellent work from Tom Jac, Ruben Williams, Jac Little and Ben Jones.

This was the pattern for the first 10 minutes then Eryri broke into the home side's half with an interception, and it was their turn to show their handling skills.

Cai Lloyd at hooker had one of his best games for the Vale, winning several scrums against the head and with quick ball from scrum half Ioan William and fly half Evan Thomas Aaron Arthur was set free, terrorising the visitors' defensive line.

After almost 20 minutes Aaron Arthur passed his opposite centre to off-load to Mikey

Bosley, who copied the skill to pass the cover defence to open the scoring.

In the second half the Vale were throwing everything into attack. The away rule meant a draw sent Eryri through to the final at the Millennium Stadium.

With just eight minutes to go Mikey Bosley rushed up on an Eryri attacking move to unsettle the attacker and take the ball from him, spinning out of the challenge he straightened up, cut back inside and ran in the length of the half to put the ball under the post.

12-0 ahead the Vale settled and started to take full control of the game, attacking constantly within the visitors' 22.

In desperation Eryri had no option but to kick out of defence. Barney Langdon had dropped back to pick up the ball and he quickly broke around the chasing group to out pace them and squeeze in to the corner.

A fantastic win with a great performance from the whole team, but spe-

cial mention must go to Cai Lloyd, Aaron Arthur, Iwan Hadfield, Barney Langdon and man-of-the-match Mikey Bosley.

Congratulations to the coaches Mr Mottram and Mr Golding for what must be a fantastic reward for all their hard work throughout the season.

A well-deserved win by the Vale pits them against Pontypool under-11s in the final to be held at the curtain raiser at the Millennium Stadium on Swalec Cup Final day.

Vale of Glamorgan Squad 2011-2012: Mikey Bosley, Ben Jones, Owen Darlucia, Barry Jones-Norton, Lewis Hawk, Lewis Bumford, Daniel Hicks, Jack Dixon, Ellis Smit, Ewan Griffiths, Ruben Williams, Luke Connor, Ben Batten, Iwan Hadfield, Evan Thomas, James Rees, Thomas Jac, Barney Langdon, Joseph Jones, Ioan Williams, Jamie Howells, Jac Little, Wil Parsons, Aaron Arthur.

MB

The Bombettes blown away by the Ravens

THE long-awaited return local derby between Barry ladies and the Ravens took place at Barry Boys school, Ravens' home pitch, in front of a large crowd.

Both teams showed great resolve and tore into each other. The Bombettes had the best of the opening moments, with No9 Bannister linking well with her forwards and backs.

However, when No10 K Jones cleared her 22 with a well-placed kick, the ball bounced the wrong way, up into the grateful hands of the Ravens full back. She showed her lightning pace and rounded the desperate Barry defence to score, which she duly converted.

Barry's players responded well and drove deep into the Ravens' half, with Richards and Cahill carrying the ball strongly. It looked odds on for a Barry score until the ball was knocked forward. Ravens cleared their lines and started exerting pressure and from a

quick tap penalty they scored their second try.

Debut winger Dixon had to be replaced early on by Waller, and the new girl relished using her pace in attack and defence alike.

The Ravens scored again in the first half which was converted. Barry continued to play rugby and Bannister made a lovely line break and sprinted into the Ravens half, only to knock on as she tried to pass the ball.

Barry started the second half with expectation of a fight back but Ravens scored early on, which virtually killed the game off.

Barry showed great resolve and continued battling, with K Jones, Richards and Waller cutting holes in the Ravens defence.

In the heat the whole bench were used after No15 Hill picked up a wrist injury and Garner-Joel a 'stinger' shoulder injury.

Eidmans Ford made her comeback, replacing Morgan, with Northcott going into the second row. B Jones came on to

the left wing but could do nothing to stop the sniping Ravens No9 scoring, and other Ravens tries came and went.

The management would like to congratulate all our players, several of whom were playing in un-acustomed positions, for battling to the end.

Not one head went down, which shows the resolve this team has. Special mention must go to prop Richards for her numerous carries and J Jones playing on the flank.

Barry's woman of the match was Richards and Seaview chose K Jones

Team: Hill, Nation, Yapp, Williams, K Jones, Dixon, Bannister, Boffy (C), Garner-Joel, J Jones, Cahill, Morgan, Richards, Philips, Horne, Northcott, Waller, B Jones and Eidmans Ford.

AM

Try tennis at club's open day

Barry Tennis Club is looking to follow up its most successful season ever with a call for women players to join its teams and for everyone to have a go at tennis.

The club is marking the start of a new season with an Open Day on Saturday April 21 from 1.30pm where everyone is welcome to try out the club's facilities.

There will be special 'Rusty Rackets' sessions from 6.30pm on the evenings of Tuesday April 24, Wednesday April 25, Tuesday May 1 and Wednesday May 2.

Monday and Thursday evenings are scheduled during the spring and summer for social tennis, where all members enjoy mixing in to play with different partners.

Veterans tennis is also organized for mid-week mornings throughout the summer.

The coaching programme is suitable for all abilities and features both classes and individual coaching by a professional coach to help improve your game.

As part of its commitment to encouraging

new, young talent, Barry Tennis Club is offering on Sunday mornings a range of coaching programmes for young players.

Last year Barry Tennis Club enjoyed one of its most successful seasons ever with its Men's team picking up the national title and other teams winning regional prizes, as well as nurturing some of Wales' top young talent, and more people coming along to have a go at tennis.

For further details about Barry Tennis Club please call 07836 758954 or e mail: Huddn@live.co.uk or visit the Club's web site at www.barrytennis.co.uk.

Commenting on the new season launch, club chairman Harry Emery said: "We are aiming to build upon last year's success. We welcome new members - the good, the bad, and the rusty - as we are committed to enabling all ages and levels to play, enjoy and improve their game. We would welcome more women players to come along and join our teams."

AG

Matt's marathon effort for injured heroes

VALE Council rugby development officer Matt Silva is currently putting in the miles ready to run the London Marathon later this month.

Matt is looking for sponsors to help him raise money for rugby players in Wales who have suffered serious injuries while playing the sport.

He will be running in aid of The Welsh Charitable Trust, and said: "Unfortunately, every year there are a number of players at all



Matt Silva.

levels of the sport across the country who suffer serious injuries while playing the game we love. If you could please spare any change to help support this worthwhile charity that would be fantastic."

There are currently 20 former players who are permanently confined to wheelchairs as a result of accidents on the field of play.

The Welsh Charitable Trust has, over the years, provided cars, wheelchairs (both electric and manual), hoists, adaptations to homes, scholarships and anything that can make the lives of injured players more comfortable.

You can support Matt's marathon efforts by visiting his fundraising page at: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/mattsilva>.

Local swimmers impress at event

BARRY Amateur Swimming Club recently participated in the Tiger Bay Open Swim Meet which was held in Cardiff International Pool.

With teams from as far afield as Liverpool, Aberystwyth, Wycombe, St Ives, Fishguard and Wolverhampton attending, the competition was going to be strong and difficult for any swimmer to achieve a gold, silver or bronze medal.

In all Barry ASC had 10 swimmers participating, ranging from some of the more recent members of the club to the more experienced. Each swimmer did themselves proud, setting numerous personal bests, producing fabulous performances and showing great progress in their swimming ability.

Barry ASC swimmers took six medals and just missed out on several more. The medal winners were: Luke Birmage - taking an incredible four medals - silver and three bronze - from the five events he entered, Jacob Davies - taking bronze, and Bethan Williams - also taking a bronze.

Jacob Davies (10) started the weekend off on a high note, taking bronze in the 50m front crawl and improving his personal best by over 3 seconds.

Bethan Williams (11) was next up for Barry, finishing fifth in the 50m backstroke and just missing out on a medal.

Bethan then proceeded to finish 12th in the 100m freestyle, and third in 50m fly to take bronze, sixth in the 200 IM, again narrowly missing a medal, and finally ninth in the 100m breaststroke, setting personal bests in every event.

Ffion Vickers (13) competed in the 50m back, 100m free, 50m fly, 50m free and 200m back, with the highlight being an improvement



ABOVE: Jacob Davies (left) and Luke Birmage.

of over nine seconds in the 200m back and setting personal bests in most of the other events.

Amy McAndrew (12) continued the setting trend when competing in the 50m back, 100m free, 50m fly and 100m breaststroke, improving her back and fly events by over two seconds.

Llinos Goodland (12) showed continued improvement in her ability while participating in the 50m back, 50m breaststroke and 50m free, improving in the free by two seconds.

Ffion Goodland (14) was not to be outdone by her younger sister, entering a large number of events - 50m back, 400m free, 200m IM, 100m breaststroke, 50m free, 50m breaststroke and 200m breaststroke.

Ffion's aptitude to the longer distance events again shone through with not many swimmers having the stamina or courage to compete in the 400m free and 200m IM within a short time of each other.

Iestwyn Perkins (9) stepped up to the mark and performed remarkably well considering his experience and time at Barry ASC.

Iestwyn competed in the 200m back, 200m breaststroke and 100m breaststroke, taking large chunks of time off

his personal bests, improving by a massive 20 seconds in the 200m back and nine seconds in the 100m breaststroke.

Jonathan Bowden (15), Barry ASC vice captain, entered the 200m free and 100m fly, finishing a very creditable 10th in the fly and taking 15 seconds off his free personal best.

Shaun Bowden (11) entered the 100m fly and narrowly missed out on a medal to finish fourth and the 50m breast to finish fifth, again just outside the medals.

Thomas Pugh (9), one of Barry ASC's junior members, took the opportunity to race in the 100m breaststroke and produced a great performance to finish 11th and take 22 seconds off his personal best.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members so if you would like a trial, please phone Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

We swim at Barry Leisure Centre on Monday, Friday and Sunday and Cardiff International Pool on Monday and Thursday. For more information look on: barryasc.org.uk and Facebook: Barry ASC.

TW

Stags warm up for new season

A BARRY ATHLETIC XI, captained by Simon Phillips, romped home to a six-wicket home win over the 'Growlers' of Pentwyn at the Barry Oval.

The match was dominated by Steve Provis, who fought the injury barrier to score a fantastic 102 not out in just 68 balls to see the Stags home.

After winning the toss and choosing to bowl first, the Stags looked in fine touch. Steve Jones and Dafydd Frost both staked their claims for regular selection with a fine combination of swing and seam bowling, taking wickets for fun to leave the visitors struggling on 36-4 from 11 overs.

The Stags fought well up to the drinks break, until the Growlers came out fighting. Owen and Rosser both showed a fine bit of aggressive batting and with a hint of luck in places, managed to help the visitors up to 159 all out.

The potential headline

could have been taken by Gavin White, had he not been bowled early on by Harris for 14.

White had joined the Stags from Pentwyn back in June 2011, and this could have been the perfect response to the travelling fans' jeers.

The visitors' tails were up after that wicket and in addition to the wicket of the ever-dangerous Rhett Jones, the Growlers were on course to claim an unlikely victory.

However, these hopes were diminished after a fine partnership of 94 between Ian Gadd and Steve Provis. Both batsmen looked in fine form and after a much-needed bat change, Provis secured the win after retiring on 102 runs; a fine effort from the Stag which was greeted by a standing ovation as he walked back to the pavilion.

It was only a matter of time until the win in the bag and a fine drive down the ground from Gadd secured it, with over 15 overs left of the innings.

ASHLEY BAKER

**Calling all club officials!
We welcome your sports reports, news and items of interest - email us at gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk**

Welsh Petanque competition makes for a thrilling day

The petanque season opened on March 25 with clubs in the Welsh Petanque Association taking part in qualifiers for the very first European Championship for veterans (55+).

The competition was held at Wenvoe PC, on a very warm and sunny Sunday. 12 mixed teams competed from Cardiff, Penarth, Llantrisant, Monmouth, Wenvoe, and Caerleon

Llanhennock in Gwent. Teams were divided into three pools to play in the morning to gain a place in the main and plate competitions.

The semi-finals of the plate competition saw "Young Wenvoe" beating the "Young Ones" from Penarth PC 13-12; Penarth fought back with their team "Alf and Alf" beating "Monkstone Mix" from Monkstone PC in Cardiff 13-6; and the play-off between "Alf and Alf" (Roger Martin, David Rapley and Colin Scott) and "Young Wenvoe" (Mike

Coleman, Roger Bryce and Tony Jellings) saw "Young Wenvoe" take the title with a 13-11 win.

The teams getting to the semi-finals of the main competition were the "Barnstone Juniors" who beat Llantrisant, who beat "Saga United" from Wenvoe and Llanhennock 13-7; and the "Marauders" from Monkstone PC in Roath who lost narrowly to "Never Say Never" from Caerleon and Monkstone Inn 12-13.

The final was then between Tony Smith, Graham Attfield and Mike Brown of "Wenvoe Juniors" who took the title against "Never Say Never", comprising Stuart Spencer, Peter Beresford and Kon Tomczyk by beating them 13-3.

Congratulations to all teams who took part to make the day a resounding success. The next competition to be held by the WPA will be the first of the Grand Prix Series to be held at Monkstone Petanque Club, based at the Pen-y-Lan club in Roath.

For further details please visit our website: www.welshpetanque.org.uk.

JS

Taster sessions at golf club

SOUTHERN-DOWN Golf Club is organising free taster sessions aimed at female golfers.

The sessions will be on April 24 and April 28 at Southerndown, and the club professional, John Peters, will be on hand to introduce beginners to the game.

To coincide with this, the club has started a 'beginner golfing scheme' - designed to let people see whether the game appeals to them.

A club spokesman said: "Our adult male membership list is actually full at the moment, but for women and younger members we do still have vacancies.

The club is proud of its panoramic views across south Wales, and is set on a rare limestone heath which drains quickly and is dry underfoot - playable for golf all the year round.

For more details, contact John on 01656 881112 - or visit: www.southerndowngolfclub.com.

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WHAT is Great Britain famous for? Entrepreneurs like Sir Richard Branson and Sir Philip Green, great musicians like Sir Paul McCartney, footballers and the Royal family.

If asked that question 25 years ago, I would have included car manufacturing, too.

However, while the UK is still among the best at it, there are sadly few, if any, entirely British-owned brands, and therefore in my book I don't feel we can claim this field as our own.

Yes, I know that Nissan, Ford, Jaguar Land Rover, Rolls Royce and Bentley all build cars here but they're foreign owned.

That small point is quickly forgotten, though, when you're fortunate enough to be entrusted with the Bentley Continental GT Coupe Cabriolet 6.0 W12.

It's a massive responsibility to look after something that currently costs more than the house I live in. Needless to say I worry about leaving it alone, just in the same way that I do with my precious baby daughter, Harriett.

MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS

This remains in the back of your mind at all times. But it does not take away the sheer joy that comes in savouring the beautifully sculpted cabriolet, on experiencing the roof dropping and on hearing the note of the engine as it bursts into life.

The quality of materials both inside and out are the best man can buy, and it is very pleasing to know that all Bentley vehicles are still manufactured in Crewe, Cheshire, even though Germany-based VW is in charge.

On first acquaintance, after regaining a modicum of self-control and sobriety, it is necessary to load Harriett's Mothercare Oyster pushchair into the boot.

Simply press the boot function on the £200 luxury Bentley key fob and watch the lid effortlessly open. The compact pushchair fits snugly inside. Push the 'close boot' button inside the boot lid and it automatically shuts.

How the other half live, but then their energies are better spent in monitoring share prices or some other such intelligent activity.

Irritatingly though, the rear seats are not large enough for adults, and while Harriett's baby seat fits, my wife's front seat has to be far forward, meaning that it's not as comfy as it could be for Caroline.

On opening the large and chunky door the driver slides into the most comfortable seat imaginable, finished in hand-stitched leather – an incredibly opulent environment.

In comparison to say, a Skoda Superb, it is clearly noticeable how supportive the Bentley's front massage seats are, particularly for the lower back.

Leather seats can get sticky on a hot day and the Bentley's incorporate a useful cold function (and they can be heated, too).

The front seats intelligently recognise when they're occupied and cleverly offer up the seatbelts, saving passengers from painfully stretching backwards to reach, as is so often the way in cabriolets.

The dash is finished in highly varnished Tamo ash wood with lashings of chrome. Sunglasses can be kept in the ash-covered Breil case in the centre, and there's a complimentary Breil clock, too.

The Bentley Continental GT Coupe 6.0 W12 (2011) 2d Auto.



There is a traditional ignition and a push start giving the driver choice. One quirk is that the ignition key resides to the far right of the dashboard close to the driver's window. An ideal location for a thief to pocket them at the traffic lights when the hood or windows are down.

It is an absolute joy, though, to hear the gravelly tone of the six-litre W12 engine, which sounds like a highly refined racing car, and it doesn't disappoint, if anything exceeding expectations.

The driver must respect this exquisitely-engineered vehicle because press that accelerator too eagerly and you will lose control.

Few cars will reach 0-60mph in 4.4 seconds and have a top speed of 198mph. Its abilities can be partially experienced pulling off a roundabout with a clear run ahead.

Just push the accelerator down and be prepared to be stunned.

The smooth responsive six speed auto is easy to use while there are paddleshifts for those wanting to drive like a manual. The force experienced isn't dissimilar to that felt when taking off in an aircraft.

This is further enhanced by the hard, sporty ride and the accompanying wind when the roof is down. There's even a neck warmer making it possible to drive topless in the coldest of climes.

Helpfully, the roof can rise or drop at speeds of up to 20mph. When it's up you would be forgiven for thinking that you were in a luxury saloon, it's so quiet.

A wide vehicle, it makes a better motorway cruiser than a country lane crawler. Handling is exemplary, though. Unsurprisingly, famous Bentley Continental GT owners have included Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "Any fears that new owner Volkswagen wasn't going to deliver a proper Bentley with its first model in charge were instantly dismissed with the arrival of the Continental GT. This opulent coupé offers real 200mph performance. The four-wheel drive chassis and W12 engine are actually shared with the Phaeton, Volkswagen's attempt at a BMW 7-series rivaling saloon, but the two cars are certainly not clones."

This is one car that everyone should drive at least once in their lives.

Bentley Continental GT Coupe 6.0 W12 (2011) 2d Auto £163,495:

Economy: 17mpg,

6 speed auto,

0-60secs: 4.4secs,

Top speed: 198mph,

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GEM sport

Ammanford unable to match powerful Ath pack Ath cruise to a well deserved victory

It was high fives as the Athletic bandwagon rolled on with a five-try feast in their fifth successive league win as they rolled over Ammanford with a 44-7 win.

It was the fourth successive bonus point win and third successive game scoring over 40 points. Prior to the run they were rock bottom with 26 points from 16 games. They have now moved up to sixth place with 50 points from 21 games.

A late change saw outside half Steven Lewis drop out. He was replaced by March player of the month Jonathon Phillips moving from full back to No10.

In his first senior outing in that position he showed his versatility and class with a try and faultless goalkicking.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 44
AMMANFORD 7

landing all five conversions and three penalties for a match haul of 24 points.

The Athletic dominated the early possession and were virtually camped inside the Ammanford 22. The pressure resulted in a penalty which Phillips slotted from 40 metres.

From the restart the ball was worked to wing James Olds, who chipped over his opponent on halfway and a kind bounce saw him regather and race over for his eighth try of the season. Phillips converted.

He then slotted another penalty as Ammanford were finding it difficult to cope with the Athletic onslaught.

Forwards Simon Mustoe and Kyle Galtry then combined to release captain Matthew Hillman to cross wide

out. Phillips converted to stretch the lead to 20-0.

Phillips then ran at the opposition and chipped over the defence. The Athletic re gathered the kick and set up a quick ruck, which saw scrum-half Aled Thomas supply quick ball to Phillips to dive over for his seventh try in seven senior appearances.

He converted his own try and coolly slotted a touchline penalty to put the Athletic firmly in the driving seat at half time with a 30-0 lead.

The second half was a bit of an anti-climax. Ammanford came more into the game as the Athletic became very careless, squandering at least three try-scoring opportunities with poor passing and wrong options.

Ammanford were rewarded when flanker Matthew Hillman was shown a yellow card for an offence in the red zone. From the five-metre scrum, No8 Chris Jones picked up and, taking advantage of the extra man in the scrum, dived over under the posts. The try was converted.

With the Athletic backs having an off-day the forwards, with man of the match, hooker Simon Mustoe, prop Rod Apsee, lock Kyle Galtry and flanker Stuart Edbrooke to the fore saw the Athletic regain the upper hand.

Also, the very hard ground was taking its toll with a number of stoppages halting the continuity of the game. First Athletic prop Tom Evans twisted his knee, then both Ammanford props left the field, resulting in passive scrums.

Finally, in the 70th minute, the Athletic got the all-important fourth



Wing Lindsey MaCausland scores Ath bonus point try.
Photos courtesy Glennsports



Centre Michael Hathaway is held.

bonus-point try. An Ammanford attack broke down inside the Athletic half and the ball was hacked upfield. Wing Lindsey MaCausland won the foot race and picked up to dive over under the posts. Phillips converted.

The fifth try came from possession at a five-metre scrum, seeing outside half Phillips put through a grubber kick for leading try scorer, full back Rhys Jones, to win the race to touch down for his 13th try of the season.

It was an exact replica of his 12th try scored the

previous week against Waunarlwydd, and a just reward for his efforts. Inevitably Phillips converted to complete a 44-7 victory that could and should have been more.

This Saturday the Athletic complete their season with a local derby against Tondur. It will take all 15 players to be on top of their game to end the season on a high note with six successive wins.

Coaches Paul Yardley, John Apsee and David Williams are hoping the players respond with two good final training sessions. **AB**

Kenfig Hill's impressive home victory



Steve Gillard powers his way through.
Pictures by Peter Gilling.

PRIOR to the game commencing a minute's silence was held in respect of two former players, Miles Jenkins and David Thomas, who have passed away.

Miles is a former captain of the Mules who went on after retirement to do sterling work for Cefn Cribwr as their chairman.

David, known as 'Dai Golly' was a gentleman of the first order who was liked and respected by all who knew him.

Glynneath took the top spot in Division 2 West after Kenfig Hill's game with Skewen was called off last weekend. Kenfig Hill prepared for a tough game, as did the visitors. The game was hard with some tough tackling, but there were very few instances of foul play.

Glynneath scored just after the start of the game with a try by blind-side wing forward Lloyd Richards.

Kenfig Hill left winger Shaun Burnell then sprinted clear only to be called back when the pass to him was

adjudged to be forward. Moments later Burnell gathered the ball on the halfway line and sprinted clear to score near the corner flag, outside half Nicky Giles making no mistake with the long range conversion.

Mules centre Rhodri Clark then made a brilliant break and passed the ball to full back Raymond Evans, who finished off the move in his usual stylish fashion, Giles converting.

Kenfig Hill had all the possession and their backs revelled in the conditions, showing a breathtaking display of their rugby playing skills.

Burnell scored his second try, sidestepping at speed through the visitors' defence with Giles converting.

Nicky Giles then scored a try with an outrageous dummy pass which threw the Glynneath defence and he then sprinted for the line.

The Kenfig Hill defence was outstanding in the first half, particularly Shaun Burnell who tackled ferociously.

This gave a half time score of Kenfig Hill 24,



Chris Tossell on his way to the try line.

Glynneath 5.

Kenfig Hill sat back in the second half but Glynneath failed to capitalise with the home defence on top, the only try in the second half a brilliant individual effort by right winger Chris Tassel with a mesmerising run from the halfway line, Giles adding the conversion.

This gave a final score of Kenfig Hill 31, Glynneath 5.

The referee's man of the match was awarded to Nicky Giles for a fine display at outside half.

Kenfig Hill's back row of Steve Gillard, Scott Waller and Jason Davies were simply outstanding in both attack and defence and hooker Karl Davies stood out with a fine scrummaging display as well as working nonstop in loose play, and his line out throwing was excellent, finding his jumper in every line out.

The backs all played well with some outstanding defensive work all through the game.

We would like to wish club member Georgie Protheo a happy 79th birthday for last week.

GOS



Jason Davies in the thick of the action.

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A Porthcawl welcome for French rugby team

THE town of Porthcawl is hosting 38 young rugby players from Porthcawl's sister town in France, Saint-Sébastien-sur-Loire, near Nantes - and locals are invited to a match tonight.

The junior players from the Loire-Atlantique region in Western France are in Porthcawl for a four-day stay and are a mix of under-15 and under-16s.

As part of their visit they have

planned trips to the Big Pit National Coal Museum at Blaenavon, the Millennium Stadium and Cardiff Bay.

They are also looking forward to three games of Rugby including a under-15s game against Porthcawl Comprehensive School yesterday, and the highlight is tonight at 6pm, when they play Porthcawl RFC under-16s.

A spokesman said: "Junior rugby can be very exciting due to the lack of inhibition of players, who are often prepared to play an open and flowing game."